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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXI, Issue No. 23

FRIDAY JANUARY 28, 2011

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Should foreign workers
be made to pay for their
own medical insurance?

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DUE TO \$59K UNPAID BILLING:

CUC disconnects Tinian govt offices

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Many government offices on Tinian have had no power since Wednesday after the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. disconnected them from the power grid due to unpaid electrical bills amounting to \$59,000.

CUC executive director Abe Utu Malae said this amount represents unpaid accounts for October and November 2010.

Agencies and offices that were disconnected include the departments of Labor, Lands and Natural Resources, Public Lands, Commerce, Community and Cultural Affairs, Agriculture, and Public Works; Coastal Resources Management,

the divisions of Environmental Quality and Fish and Wildlife, Office of Management and Budget, the Mayor's Office, Municipal Treasury, the gymnasium, Tinian's pavilion projects, and other outreach programs of the municipality.

Malae disclosed that CUC was originally scheduled to disconnect these offices on Jan. 25 but delayed it by a few days

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Obama nominates Manglona to US District Court for NMI

» **Kilili, Fitial: A proud day for the islands**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

President Barack Obama nominated on Wednesday CNMI Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona to serve as U.S. District Court judge for the Northern Mariana Islands, a welcome news for many in the Commonwealth.



Manglona

This is the first time that someone from the CNMI has been nominated by a U.S. president to serve on the U.S. District Court.

Her nomination needs to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Once confirmed, Manglona will replace Alex. R. Munson, who retired on Feb. 28, 2010, after 22 years with the federal court.

Manglona is currently off-island.

Besides Manglona, Obama See OBAMA on Page 4



Shark finning ban now a CNMI law

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The CNMI marked another milestone yesterday by becoming the first U.S. territory to ban shark fins.

It was inspired by Hawaii, the first U.S. state to make it illegal to possess, sell or distribute shark fins. The CNMI, in turn, inspired Guam to also introduce a similar bill.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who

signed the bill into law yesterday morning, said this should also inspire other island nations and countries to pass their own shark protection laws.

The new law prohibits posses-

See SHARK on Page 4

The legislation shines a positive international spotlight on the CNMI and positions the islands as a pioneer in shark and ocean conservation.

—Iris Ho, wildlife campaign manager for Humane Society International

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, second from right, signs into law yesterday morning a shark fin ban bill which CNMI officials and international shark conservation groups described as "milestone" measure to protect sharks. From left, Rob Stewart, the director of the documentary *Sharkwater*, assistant attorney general Meaghan Hassel-Shearer, Fitial, and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill.

Local

Tinian mayor claims personal vendetta behind campaign

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz slammed Felipe Atalig and the former mayor's legal coun-

sel Ramon Quichocho yesterday, accusing the two of waging a smear campaign against him.

He said the two aim to attack and embarrass him and that personal vendetta is the prime motive behind their Open Government Act requests for documents related to municipal expenditures.

Atalig earlier criticized Dela Cruz for spending over \$50,000 in travel within and outside the Commonwealth, alleging "abuse of authority" within the municipality.

The mayor, in a letter to Atalig yesterday, said his office has cooperated in providing Atalig the information he had

asked for through the OGA but Atalig failed to inspect the other documents he had requested.

Instead, Dela Cruz said that Atalig sent Nathan Quichocho and his nephew, Ramon Quichocho, as representatives, to which the mayor objected, citing conflict of interest.

Ramon Quichocho is the Tinian mayor's former legal counsel. His contract was terminated in May last year.

Dela Cruz said Atalig's new request for documents only aims to harass and embarrass him and his family.

"You have already been given full access to review all public

documents. It is obvious that your Jan. 25, 2011, letter is intended to harass and embarrass me and my family in the media...If you believe any of the documents are questionable, I recommend that you forward them to the proper authorities. We will respond to any inquiries from legitimate agencies or personnel and not to your false agenda of an Open Government Act inquiry with your juvenile questions," said the mayor.

Dela Cruz added: "I have promised not to stoop to your level by engaging in a public debate to defend my actions. Your record as a public official speaks for itself. Your latest attack truly shows how insensitive, crude, and outright mendacious you can be. The mayor's former attorney has done everything to help you to injure and harm his [former] client. In this response I justify my reaction because I want to show the people of Tinian and [the] CNMI just how repulsive you and former counsel to the mayor really are."

He defended some of the alleged "questionable" trips he made. "As the mayor of Tinian, I work to provide supplement medical assistance to all Tinian residents. This assistance comes in the form of travel assistance, stipends, and lodging while on Saipan and abroad. Every family on Tinian has been a recipient of this service over the past three administrations and during every medical emergency a request for assistance is made. Taxpayer funds have been used to assist residents for their needs when away from Tinian," he said.

He said his travel to Saipan

in February last year was for Antonio Dela Cruz and his family to visit and care for his dying granddaughter in the hospital on Saipan.

"This was a very emotional time for the entire family and again, the mayor's former attorney Ramon K. Quichocho is fully aware of our loss. Implying that I used this situation to benefit me or my family is the ugliest, most insulting, and insensitive accusation you could

wager upon my family as we are still grieving her loss. To make matters worse, you and Ramon K. Quichocho should be ashamed of yourselves for trying to discredit the assistance I provided an innocent child before her passing as a means to publicly attack and harass me for our differences," he added.

Dela Cruz said Ramon Quichocho has taken his personal vendetta to the lowest possible level. "If it is truly your intent to question the validity of the charter flights and the supplemental medical assistance provided to the people of Tinian, then why don't you question the assistance provided to other families during their time of need?" he asked.

Despite this, Dela Cruz said that Atalig's additional request for documents will be honored and that the documents will be made available on Feb. 3.

He reiterated, however, his objection to the involvement of Ramon K. Quichocho in securing OGA documents from the Mayor's Office.

Ramon K. Quichocho has yet to return this reporter's call when contacted yesterday.

NORTHERN ISLANDS MAYOR'S OFFICE

New office on Pagan, work with USFW cited as accomplishments

The collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the start of the construction of an office in Pagan are among the accomplishments cited by the Northern Islands Mayor's Office in its latest quarterly report to the governor.

The report, which covers October to December 2010, states that the Mayor's Office on Pagan is about 75 percent complete. It is being constructed with wood and tin materials.

"The office needs a little more materials such as plywood and nails for the finishing part. The NIMO has made arrangements to purchase the needed materials to complete the Mayor's Office on Pagan when funds become available," the report states.

NIMO's collaboration with the Fish and Wildlife Service was for the terrestrial survey completed in December. According to the report, NIMO expects the draft report from the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The report also identified the

first field trip to the Northern islands in October, which enabled the relocation of residents to their respective islands, as another accomplishment.

"Despite the scarce funding, the NIMO managed to fork out what remaining funds was left in its local account to pay for the field trip," states the report.

The report also states that Pagan residents have already begun planting seasonal crops and raising livestock as part of their daily activities to attain self-sufficiency.

NIMO has also been involved in community activities on Saipan by doing yard work and maintenance in government offices such as the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

NIMO also secured over 40 empty barrels donated by Fish and Wildlife, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and Americoters Inc. to be converted into trash bins and donated to elementary schools on Saipan. (Clarissa David)

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PSS incurs \$20M in unpaid employer contributions; owes CUC \$300,000

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System has \$20 million in unpaid employer contributions to the NMI Retirement Fund and to date owes the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. about \$300,000 for its water and power consumption.

PSS finance director Richard Waldo said the unpaid contribution is based on the Fund's preliminary data, while the utility arrears mean PSS is just a month behind in its payment.

Since PSS was allocated a budget of just \$30.1 million this fiscal year, Waldo said it would be difficult for PSS to shoulder both obligations and is looking for the central government's help to make the payment.

"PSS does not generate revenues...and [payment for these obligations] has to come from the central government," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Waldo explained that the Fund obligation is a result of the changes in laws that increased the system's contribution rate to the Fund. From 0 percent, PSS' employer contribution was increased to 11 percent, then 24 percent. Starting in fiscal year 2011, its employer contribution rate will go up to 30 percent.

For the unpaid obligation to CUC, Waldo said that PSS tried its best to keep its payments current but this didn't happen due to the government's cash-flow problem.

"We owe CUC about \$300,000. We're just one month

behind...so we're still doing OK at present," he said.

On average, PSS spends about \$200,000 a month for the water and power consumption of all its schools. PSS projects its total CUC obligations to reach \$3.6 million every year.

Last fiscal year, about \$1.2 million from the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund was reprogrammed to pay for schools' utilities.

Waldo disclosed that an "off-set agreement" between CUC and PSS involving \$350,000 in disputed billings had also helped to lessen PSS' obligation.

Meantime, Waldo disclosed that PSS has already received its remaining \$900,000 allotment for fiscal year 2010. The money was used to pay PSS' vendors and personnel costs.

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Info needed in Kagman rape case

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on a rape incident that occurred in Kagman on June 16, 2010. The victim, a juvenile female, stated she was kidnapped and raped.

Further police investigation led to the arrest of four local

men. The men were charged but released due to insufficient evidence (legal matters).

The case is still ongoing and anyone with additional information that may help solve this case is urged to contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Tipsters

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**Join the President for Mass at Kristo Rai Church
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A meeting with the Chuukese Community will commence at 7:30 p.m. at the Multi-Purpose Center.

Thank you for your support!

SHARK**From Page 1**

sion, selling, offering for sale, trading, or distributing shark fins in the CNMI. It, however, allows catching of sharks for subsistence or non-commercial purposes.

Shortly after Fitial signed the shark protection law, the Humane Society International, Shark Savers, and WildAid congratulated the CNMI leadership "in championing shark protection in the region."

"With passage of this bill, yet another region of the Pacific takes a strong stand against the trade of shark fins and the sale of shark fin soup. It sets a great example for the region to ensure a sustainable future for the islands," said WildAid executive director Peter Knights.

Fitial said he received only positive comments about what he described as a "landmark" legislation, and that he was never pressured by anybody not to sign the bill.

"Today, we proudly follow suit behind Palau's creation of a shark sanctuary in 2009, Hawaii's law banning all shark products in 2010, and President Obama's enactment of the Shark Conservation Act just this past January 4th," Fitial told the crowd inside the conference room who witnessed the signing.

Restaurants in the CNMI that possess shark fins may still serve shark fin soup, sell or offer for sale shark fins within 90 days from yesterday. After that, it will be illegal to do so.

Work doesn't stop here

House minority leader Diego T. Benavente, the bill's author, said the work does not stop here. He said attention should be focused on enforcing the law.

"I'm just so happy that it's signed into law not because it's my bill and that it's the first public law to be signed this year. It's because of the fact that I truly believe in the legislation, that it will make a difference in the lives of CNMI people but also to people in other parts of the world by helping to protect sharks and the marine environ-

ment," said Benavente, a fisherman himself.

Persons found in violation of the new law may be fined not less than \$5,000 but not more than \$30,000, and/or imprisoned for not more than six months.

This early, Fitial said, he has already received inquiries from a Hong Kong-based entity planning to come to the CNMI for eco-tourism, as a result of the anti-shark fin law.

Rob Stewart, director of the acclaimed documentary *Sharkwater*, was also at the bill signing, which he said will be included in his next film.

Stewart came to Saipan at the invitation of San Vicente Elementary School's sixth grade students of teacher Kathy Pagapular.

"I could have said no, but the fact that a grade 6 class sees that there's a change needed in the world and tries to do something about it, it's huge, and if I could play any part in encouraging young people to take matters into their own hands and try to make the world a better place, I'll do that," he said in an interview.

After spending Wednesday diving with sharks and hanging out with eagle rays, Stewart said it's an amazing experience to witness the Thursday bill signing, which he hopes will be replicated in other island nations and countries.

Also present at the bill signing were Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, other CNMI lawmakers, other government officials and community members supporting a global movement to protect sharks.

Last-minute calls

On the eve of his bill signing, Fitial said he got a call from Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council executive director Kitty Simonds at 9:30pm on Wednesday, but he said the call was only to remind him that there's already a federal law that prohibits shark finning.

Wespac is tasked with managing fisheries in U.S. waters in this part of

disconnected. "What they did was they consolidated and went back to work in these two offices."

At DLNR, all personnel were sent home.

On Wednesday, DCCA got its power back after an hour of disconnection.

Offices that lost their power yesterday at 2pm included the Tinian Mayor's Office and the Finance and Public Works departments. About 20 employees at the Mayor's Office opted to stay and continue working.

Essential services

Three essential services and departments that were spared from the disconnection—for now—were the Tinian Health Center, Department of Public Safety, and the island's streetlights.

Perez admitted, though, that without guaranteed funding for utilities, these may also soon be affected.

"Last week I was notified by Esther Fleming at the Governor's Office that CUC has informed them that Tinian offices will be disconnected. She asked me to provide them a priority list of essential accounts that shouldn't be disconnected. I identified DPS, THC, and our streetlights as essential and shouldn't be disconnected due to safety and health reasons. As of now, these essential accounts have not been cut," said Perez.

For departments that experienced a complete blackout, personnel were allowed to go home without pay while others were consolidated with some offices that still had power, such as Labor. Perez said the Labor Department has seven CUC accounts and two were not

the world.

Fitial, in an interview with reporters after the bill signing, said he told Simonds he's aware of the federal statute which he thinks is stricter than the one he's about to sign. The governor said he's comfortable with the bill he signed.

The governor said he also got a call from Hawaii State Sen. Clayton Hee early Thursday morning, asking whether he would sign the law after reports came out that there were some concerns about it.

"I told him the specific time that I'd sign the law—at 9:30am," Fitial said, adding that Hee would have wanted to come to Saipan for the signing.

Hee's bill became the strongest shark protection law in the nation. He was on Saipan in December to drum up support for Benavente's bill, which is modeled after Hee's bill that became law in Hawaii last year.

Fitial said the CNMI has seen much progress in preventing overfishing, minimizing bycatch, and protecting fish stocks and habitats. "However, there is still room to do more," he added.

To protect its natural wealth, the CNMI has created marine protected areas, has been doing coral reef monitoring, and holding educational outreach programs to teach people about the importance of conservation, among other things.

"Now with the implementation of the Shark Fin Prohibition Act, we can add protecting the animals at the top of the marine food chain—sharks—to that list," said Fitial.

Fitial, who was also interviewed by Stewart for his *Sharkwater* sequel, shared that sharks also have medicinal uses. He said when he was still infant, his folks used shark liver to help cure him of an illness.

Positive international spotlight

Up to 73 million sharks are used in shark fin soup every year and the trade has been the major factor in the decimation of global shark populations.

Humane Society International said they have already seen the positive

He also requested that at least one account in each department be kept connected so they could open the offices and provide public services.

Today, Tinian employees will observe austerity Friday.

Perez said they are in a "wait-and-see" mode right now but he is optimistic that power will be back to normal on Monday.

H clarified, though, that the Tinian municipality does not make a direct payment to CUC.

"In the fiscal year 2011 budget, municipal government offices are not provided any funding for utilities. All payments are made by [the Department of Finance on] Saipan. All we do is receive the billings and request DOF Saipan to remit payment. Unfortunately, we do not have any say as to when our utilities will be paid."

He said the Mayor's Office will communicate with the Governor's Office for an update on the situation and whether payment will be made to reconnect all affected offices.

In an effort to reduce their utility costs, Perez said the mayor has instructed every department to monitor their power use daily and implement cost-saving measures to reduce overall usage.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz was on Saipan yesterday but was unavailable when contacted for comment.

ripple effect as Guam's legislature has picked up the torch from the CNMI and is contemplating a similar bill.

"The legislation shines a positive international spotlight on the CNMI and positions the islands as a pioneer in shark and ocean conservation," said Iris Ho, wildlife campaign manager for Humane Society International which, together with its partner organizations, is one of the world's largest animal protection organizations.

Shark Savers, an international shark conservation organization, said the historic CNMI law recognizes that "sharks are one of the top predators in the marine food chain and play an im-

portant role in our ocean's ecosystem. Sharks have characteristics that make them more vulnerable to overfishing than most fish."

It said the CNMI joins island nations and regions in taking strong actions to protect sharks, including Palau, the Maldives, and Raja Ampat, Indonesia.

"One by one, Pacific Island communities like the CNMI are taking steps to protect valuable shark species to ensure the health of their precious marine environments," said Michael Skoletsky, executive director of Shark Savers.

Benavente's bill, House Bill 17-94, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 is now CNMI Public Law 17-27.

term as the CNMI's first nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, said he sought to establish the precedent that the CNMI delegate to Congress "would be accorded the same deference with respect to nominations for the federal district court here, that is given to United States senators for such nominations within their respective states."

'Role model'

Just like other nominees, Manglona had to go through scrutiny and meet high standards.

Sablan said that Manglona's background is unblemished, her competence is without question, and her sense of compassion and justice are in keeping with the president's own.

"As I expressed to the President in making my recommendation, Ramona Manglona is also particularly distinguished by her dedication to public service. In this she is a model for young people in our community. Indeed, more than a model, Judge Manglona has also made it her work to increase educational opportunities and expand educational resources for the youth of our islands," he said.

Sablan said he pledges to continue to support Manglona in every way he can.

Manglona's background

Manglona is a 1996 graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law where she graduated with honors. She obtained her B.A. in 1990 from the University of California at Berkeley.

She is admitted to practice law in the State of New Mexico, the CNMI, the U.S. District Court for the NMI, and the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

After law school, Manglona served as a law clerk in the Commonwealth Superior Court.

From 1998 to 2002, she served as an assistant attorney general in both Criminal and Civil Divisions of the CNMI Office of the Attorney General.

In 2002, she served as the deputy attorney general for the Commonwealth, before being nominated by then Gov. Juan N. Babauta and confirmed by the CNMI Senate as the attorney general.

Manglona is the first female originally from the CNMI to serve as attorney general. The other women attorneys general were Pam Brown, who is now the U.S. labor ombudsman, and Maya Kara, now in private practice.

Manglona has been associate judge with the CNMI Superior Court since 2003.

From 2004 to 2008, Manglona also served as a justice pro tempore and judge pro tempore with the Guam Supreme Court and the Guam Superior Court.

Prior to becoming a judge, Manglona also served the NMI Bar Association in different capacities—as president, treasurer and director.

Alcantara wins Hopwood's spelling bee, advances to Guam tilt

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twelve-year-old Mikhail Alcantara was adjudged as Hopwood Junior High School's best speller, winning for himself a slot to represent the school in the 84th Annual Scripps Spelling Bee in Guam this March.

Alcantara, the youngest son of Jerry and Ligaya Alcantara, was the CNMI Public School System's representative in last year's national spelling bee competition in Washington, D.C. after emerging the regional champion in the Guam competition.

This year marks the young Alcantara's fifth trip to the Guam competition. Seventh grader Kristine Laurio will be his alternate.

"I hope to win again...like before," Alcantara told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, adding that his repeated participation in the contest has not dulled his excitement.

Since third grade, Alcantara



Alcantara

has been a consistent winner of the spelling bee contest, representing the William S. Reyes Elementary School in various competitions.

Hopwood held the preliminary round of the school-wide contest in December; more than 30 students participated. The number was whittled down to six, who faced off in the final round.

Alcantara earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that he wants to become

a lawyer and a doctor when he grows up. He is convinced that involvement in the spelling bee would develop his personality and enhance his knowledge as a student.

To prepare for the Guam competition, Alcantara said he will continue to study the origins of words and review the materials provided for the contest.

"I believe that it's through hard work and focus that I can achieve my goals," he added.

Alcantara spends a few hours daily to prepare for the Guam competition.

Besides Hopwood, other public and private schools will send representatives to the regional contest, which caters to third to eighth graders.

24 Saipan beach sites red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged 24 beach sites on Saipan and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected beaches are the Paupau Beach, Palms Resort, Plumeria Hotel, Aqua Resort Hotel, Tanapag Meeting Hall, Central Repair Shop, DPW Channel Bridge, S. Puerto Rico dump, Smiling Cove Marina, American Memorial Park, Outer Cove Marina, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort and Spa, Fiesta drainage, Hafadai Beach Hotel, Hafa-Adai drainage, Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan on Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

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Life in Motion

Police find pot plantation surrounded with booby traps

» Officer injured upon stepping on booby trap; 96 marijuana plants recovered

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force has uncovered a marijuana plantation surrounded with booby traps in Kagman III.

Detective Steve Castro, a

member of the task force, injured his left foot and two toes after stepping on a booby trap that contained wood and nails.

The task force arrested Newly Aldan Agulto, 38, on Wednesday for trafficking of a controlled substance and illegal possession of controlled

substance.

Agulto allegedly cultivated the marijuana in the jungle area surrounding his residence on Chopak St. in Kagman III.

The task force recovered a total of 96 marijuana plants ranging from seedlings to five feet tall.

Bail was initially set at \$25,000 cash for Agulto's temporary release. He was set

to appear yesterday afternoon for a bail hearing before Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman.

Drug Enforcement Task Force detective Sean White stated in his report that he, along with detectives Steve Castro, Roque Camacho, and Dennis Reyes had gone Tuesday afternoon to a jungle located in an abandoned lot in Kagman III to verify information obtained from a concerned citizen about Agulto's marijuana plantation.

As they were walking toward a tin-fenced area, White said that Castro stepped on a booby trap. During further inspection, White said they found more booby traps camouflaged with banana leaves and grass surrounding the area.

Detectives found 20 mariju-

Businessman strangled in robbery; couple lose \$15K cash, other items

A businessman lost consciousness after an unidentified man strangled and robbed him in As Teo last week, while a Korean couple lost \$15,000 cash and other items during a burglary at their apartment in Susupe on Jan. 10, according to the NMI Crime Stoppers Program yesterday.

Crime Stoppers Program coordinator Jason Tarkong said the first victim, a 54-year-old Filipino businessman, lost his black Nokia cell phone, a set of keys, and a brown checkered leather wallet containing credit cards, driver's license, and \$100 cash.

Tarkong said the victim described the suspect as possibly

Chamorro, of average height and skinny build, dark skin, with dark short hair, in his late teens or early 20s, and was wearing a beige T-shirt and dark pants.

Tarkong said the businessman called police on Friday, Jan. 21, to report that he was robbed at the Mountain Fresh Water Co.

Investigation showed that the suspect had gone to Mountain Fresh, giving a false name and asking to have water delivered to a fake address.

During the transaction, the suspect suddenly attacked the businessman by strangling him. The victim lost consciousness and when he woke up a few

minutes later, he saw the suspect attempting to start the victim's car.

The businessman managed to call police. When police officers arrived, the suspect was gone.

In the burglary case, Tarkong said the Korean couple, both business owners, discovered on Jan. 10 that a burglar or burglars had broken into their apartment after noticing that a Louis Vuitton handbag in the living room was missing.

"Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous, or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.com. Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 cash for any information leading to an arrest," Tarkong said. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



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to discuss constituent issues with*

*Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
112th Congress*

United States House of Representatives

Friday, January 28, 2011

9:30 am.

Hopwood Jr. High School

na plants inside the fenced area.

White said he and Camacho followed the trail from the tin-fenced area leading to Agulto's residence and spotted more marijuana plants being cultivated in three different spots at Agulto's residence.

The detectives knocked on the door to speak with Agulto, but no one answered.

The detectives summoned a crime scene technician to take photos and seize the marijuana found in the area.

Detectives found 20 mariju-

Labor orders printing press to submit monthly payroll report

fice for sanctions to be imposed against the company.

Cody said ASG Corp. should deliver the monthly payroll report on the last day of each month beginning on Feb. 28, 2011, and continuing for six months.

The monthly payroll report, he said, should contain the total payroll paid to the entire work force; the pay period covered; the number of workers that have been paid in that month; and the total amount of outstanding accounts receivables.

Cody dismissed without prejudice the agency case filed against ASG Corp. He said Labor may re-file a similar agency case later in 2011 if it deems that ASG is not meeting its payroll obligations.

Labor's Enforcement Section began its investigation of ASG Corp. in July 2010 after it was reported that the company was falling behind in paying its dozens of alien workers.

ASG runs a printing business. As of January 2011, it has 31 foreign and resident workers.

Cody said that, at the first hearing on July 14, 2010, ASG general manager Tirso Segismundo testified that the company owed its workers \$19,161.61. At that time, ASG had 35 employees.

At the hearing on Jan. 25, 2011, Segismundo testified that ASG was still behind by about two full paychecks, totaling about \$22,000.

Segismundo confirmed that the company currently employs 31 full-time workers (including six resident workers) and that it has paid its workers through the pay period ending on Dec. 3, 2010.

Segismundo also testified that ASG currently holds \$238,567 in uncollected accounts receivables and that the company intends to pay the back wages owed its employees by collecting its accounts receivables more efficiently.

Cody noted that, although ASG remains behind in paying its workers two full paychecks, Segismundo has cooperated in the last six months, regularly submitting payroll reports and attending hearings as scheduled.

Cody said the facts support a finding that "ASG has made, and continues to make, good faith efforts to meet its current payroll and pay overdue payroll to its workforce." (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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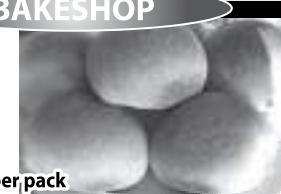
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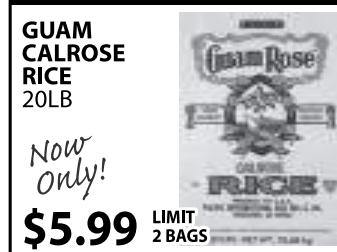
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KEE SANDWICH TO GO**New 24-hour snack bar opens in Garapan**

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Businessman Ta Bun Kuy opened on Jan. 11 the newest addition to his line of wide-ranging enterprises: a food concession in the Garapan district called "Kee Sandwich to Go."

Located on Micro Beach Hotel across the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kee Sandwich to Go is a 24-hour snack bar that serves appetizing refreshments and

short order food on a budget.

Ta disclosed that the concept of Kee came about with the help of his wife and entrepreneur son.

"My son put up his own restaurant, a Mexican grill, in California. I thought to myself that I'd also like to create my own here and start with a small snack bar," said Ta.

Kee Sandwich to Go offers a variety of sandwiches, including hotdog sandwiches, their signature Vietnamese sandwiches,

Continued on Next Page

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 28, 1999

Tinian lawmakers pledge \$3.5M for airport project

The Tinian Legislative Delegation yesterday pledged some \$3.5 million funding to expand the existing runway at the West Tinian Airport in a move to save the financially troubled Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino. In a meeting with the Commonwealth Ports Authority officials, the Tinian Delegation noted that the Federal Aviation Administration's funding did not cover the airport's full expansion program which is estimated to cost \$24 million. Tinian Dynasty has blamed the failure of the CNMI government to carry out its commitment to expand the West Tinian Airport runway as the main stumbling block in increasing visitor arrivals on the island.

No funds yet for EIC, governor says

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday admitted that his administration has yet to identify funds to pay some \$6 million in Earned Income Credit to taxpayers which have been held up since last year due lack of resources. The financially-troubled government owes taxpayers millions of dollars in EIC covering tax year 1997, but the governor assured the people that they will receive the credit once the money is available. "We are still identifying the funds," Tenorio said, as he promised that his administration "will comply with the law to pay the EIC to those who are entitled to receive it." The governor previously said his finance officials were beginning to rebuild the special rebate trust account to make sure that people receive on time their rebates covering tax year 1998.

Jan. 28, 2000

Law designates Marpi as new public cemetery

With 103 deaths recorded each year on the island, the government will open a new cemetery in Marpi in efforts to ease overcrowding in existing burial sites as well as to provide "ecologically suitable and aesthetically fitting final resting place," according to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. Under the law he has signed, the site will encompass the lots surrounding the proposed Veterans Cemetery, with total land area equivalent to nearly 70,000 square meters. This will complement the three cemeteries—in Chalan Kanoa and Tanapag as well as Wireless Hill Public Cemetery in Capitol Hills—which are already full to capacity and pose an environmental hazard to underground water sources.

Rota mayor turns to FAA for airport expansion

Rota Mayor Benjamin Manglona is asking immediate assistance from the Federal Aviation Administration for the improvement and rehabilitation of the island's international airport runway and facilities. In a letter to U.S. Department of Transportation Acting Manager for Airports District Office Daniel Matsumoto, Mr. Manglona stressed the need to improve and upgrade runway and terminal facilities of the Rota International Airport. "The island of Rota is now ready to embark into a major tourist destination. However, the impediment of our success is because of the port and desperate condition of our airport runway and facilities," he told Mr. Matsumoto.

From Page 8

cheeseburgers, which have become their customers' favorite for its home-made patties, and regular and jumbo-sized siopao in Filipino and Vietnamese styles that are all priced from \$1.75 to \$5.

Kee also has several short order fares like ramen in Chamorro, BBQ chicken, and mixed seafood flavors; pork gyoza and dumplings; shanghai lumpia; crispy fried wings; spaghetti with meat sauce; French fries in regular, cheese or BBQ flavor; and Vietnamese spring roll.

Kee's tasty barbecues are available from 6pm to midnight. Kee barbecue is grilled using a lava rock char broiler, which is designed to distribute heat evenly and seal in the juices.

Beverages include hot and iced coffee, hot and iced chocolate, sodas, water, juice, local and imported beers, tuba or coconut wine, and the Korean liquor soju.

Kee offers a wide selection of sweet refreshments, from shaved ice and pearl shakes to banana split and halo-halo, which comes in Filipino and Vietnamese styles. Kee also carries Dreyer's ice cream in 13 flavors, served either in a cup or sugar cone and priced at \$1.95 for a single scoop and \$3.50 for a double scoop.

Ta understands the economic situation on island, encouraging him to come up with eight easy-on-the-budget set meals for

adult and children customers. "We want to keep it affordable especially for the local community," he explained.

The adult set menu from A to D includes a choice of Vietnamese sandwich and fries, cheeseburger and fries, ramen and gyoza or spaghetti and crispy fried wings plus a choice of your drinks for only \$7 to \$10.

For the kid's set menu, young customers can choose from cheeseburger and fries, hotdog and fries, crispy fried wings and fries or spaghetti and crispy fried wings plus a choice of soda or ice cream for only \$5 to \$5.50.

As part of their promotion for February, Ta said a minimum purchase of \$5 at Kee will enable customers a chance to help the local chapter of the American Red Cross or the church in which they belong. Drop off the minimum purchase receipt at any Red Cross or church donation box so they can claim 10 percent of the receipt amount. "It's one way to help the Red Cross or the church by raising funds for them," said Ta, who is a Red Cross board and San Roque parish council member.

Ta said they plan to regularly update the menu by offering different styles of pizzas, including Chamorro, Japanese, and Korean.

Visit Kee Sandwich to Go at the ground floor of Micro Beach Hotel across from Hyatt Regency. Kee is open 24 hours. All major cards accepted. For information, call 233-1388/68/78.

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SANDWICHES

Vietnamese sandwich	\$ 4.00
(A popular sandwich from Vietnam layered with sliced ham, meatloaf, pate and our homemade garlic butter. Garnished with pickled carrots, radish and cucumber)	
Cheeseburger (Single)	\$ 3.50
Cheeseburger (Double)	\$ 5.00
(Our homemade beef patty served with cheese, tomato and pickles)	
Dirty Dog (JUMBO)	\$ 4.00
(Bacon - wrapped hot dog topped with grilled onions)	
Chili Dog (JUMBO)	\$ 4.00
(Hot dog topped with chili bean and melted shredded cheese)	
Vegies Jumbo Hotdog	\$ 3.50
Jumbo Siopao (Filipino style)	\$ 3.00
Regular Siopao	\$ 1.75
(pork asado and boiled egg inside a steamed bun)	
Jumbo Siopao (Vietnamese style)	\$ 3.00
Regular Siopao	\$ 1.75
(pork, chinese sausage, mushroom and boiled egg inside a steamed bun)	

**SHORT ORDERS**

Ramen (Chamorro Style)	\$ 5.00
(Noodle served with spam and egg)	
BBQ Chicken Ramen	\$ 5.00
Mixed Seafood Ramen	\$ 5.00
Pork Gyoza (Fried dumpling) (6 pcs)	\$ 4.00
Pork Dumpling (6 pcs)	\$ 4.00
Shanghai Lumpia (6 pcs)	\$ 5.00
Vietnameses Spring Roll	\$ 6.00
Crispy Fried Wings (3 pcs)	\$ 4.50
Spaghetti with meat sauce	\$ 5.00
French fries (Regular)	\$ 2.00
(Cheese or BBQ Flavor)	\$ 2.25

Phone: 233-1388 / 78 / 68 (across Hyatt Hotel)

Sweets			
Shaved Ice (Small)	\$ 1.95	Pearl Shake (Large)	\$ 4.25
Shaved ice (Large)	\$ 3.00	(strawberry daiquiri, frozen cappuccino, grasshopper, mudslide, squirrel, raspberry runner, buko pandan, juanita banana)	
(cotton candy, grape, watermelon, raspberry, wild cherry, banana, tiger's blood, lemon lime, strawberry, pina-colada)			
Ice Cream (single cone/cup)	\$ 1.95	Banana Split	\$ 4.50
Ice Cream (Double cone/cup)	\$ 3.50	Root Beer Float	\$ 4.50
		Halo-halo (Filipino Style)	\$ 3.75
		Halo-halo (Vietnamese Style)	\$ 3.75

Set Menu			
Combo Meal A - Vietnamese Sandwich & French Fries		Combo Meal C - Ramen & Gyoza	
with Soda	\$ 7.00	with Soda	\$ 9.00
with Hot Coffee	\$ 7.00	with iced Coffee	\$ 10.00
with iced Coffee	\$ 8.00	with Beer	\$ 10.00
with Beer	\$ 8.00		
Combo Meal B - Cheeseburger & French Fries		Combo Meal D - Spaghetti	
with Soda	\$ 7.00	(with meat sauce) & Crispy Fried Wings	
with Hot Coffee	\$ 7.00	with Soda	\$ 9.00
with iced Coffee	\$ 8.00	with Hot Coffee	\$ 10.00
with Beer	\$ 8.00	with iced Coffee	\$ 10.00
		with Beer	\$ 10.00

Kids Set Meal			
Combo Meal E - Cheeseburger & French Fries		Combo Meal G - Crispy Fried Wings & French Fries	
with Ice Cream	\$ 5.00	with Ice Cream	\$ 5.50
with Soda	\$ 5.00	with Soda	\$ 5.50
Combo Meal F - Hot dog & French Fries		Combo Meal H - Spaghetti (with meat sauce) & Crispy Fried Wings	
with Ice Cream	\$ 5.00	with Ice Cream	\$ 7.00
with Soda	\$ 5.00	with Soda	\$ 7.00
We also have a dollar menu daily from 6pm-12am			
BBQ Stick, Hotdog on a Bun, Spring Rolls, Yakisoba, French Fries....			

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXI, Issue No. 23

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

No safe level of exposure to tobacco smoke

By TINA SABLAR
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Tina Sablan is a former House representative and is currently the program manager of the Commonwealth Cancer Association.



"The harmful effects of tobacco smoke do not end with the users of tobacco... Every inhalation of tobacco smoke exposes our children, our families, and our loved ones to dangerous chemicals that can damage their bodies and result in life-threatening diseases such as cancer and heart disease."

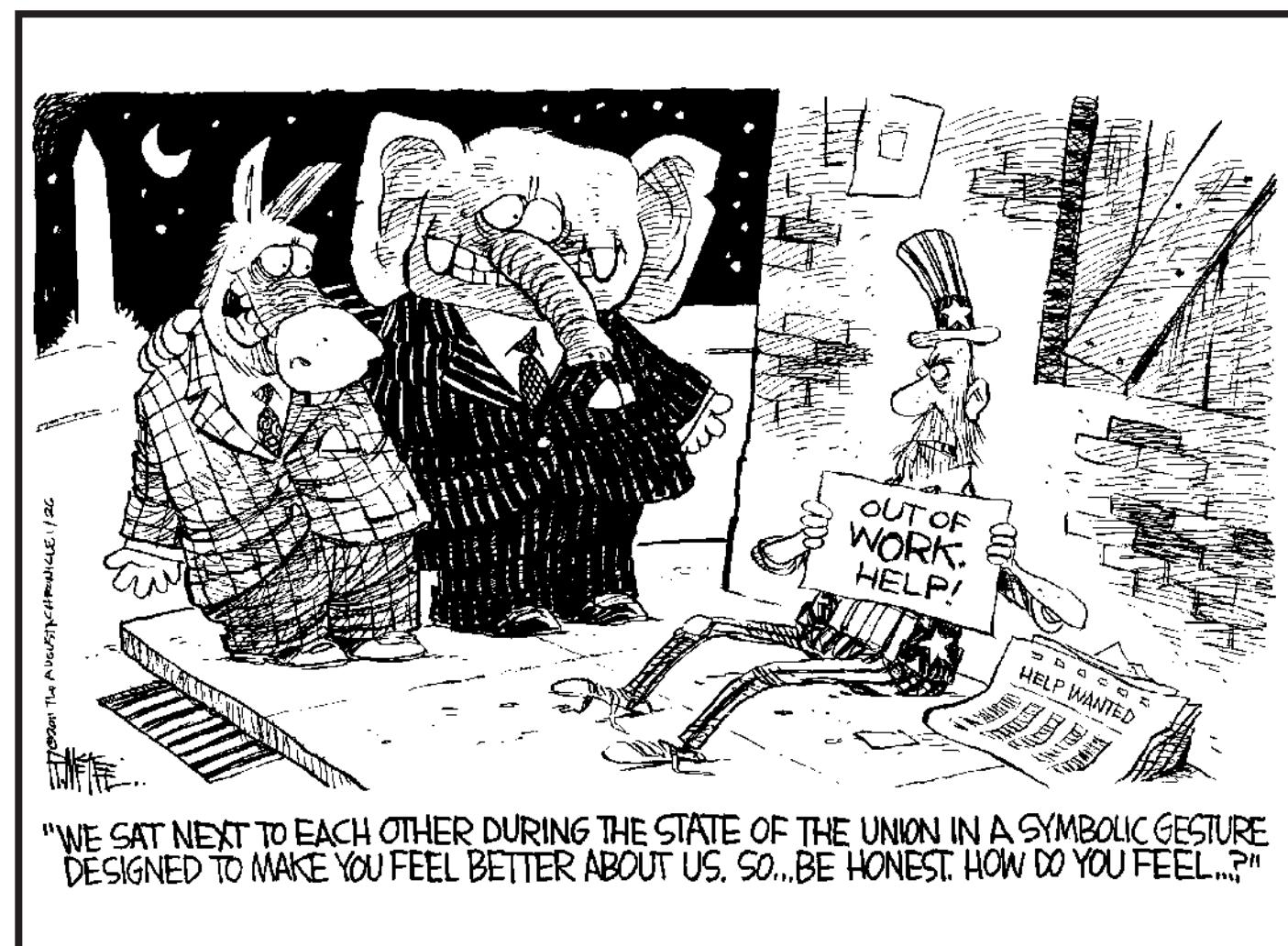
—Regina Benjamin, U.S. Surgeon General, *How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease* (2010)

Since 1964, U.S. Surgeons General have issued more than 30 reports detailing the hazards of tobacco smoke exposure. The most recent report, *How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease*, issued in 2010, is a comprehensive and scientific discussion of how tobacco smoke exposures damage the human body, based on decades of research.

The picture that is clearly and consistently emerging from these studies is that there is no safe level of exposure to tobacco smoke. According to the Surgeon General, tobacco smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals, hundreds of which are toxic, and at least 69 of which cause cancer. The Surgeon General's 2010 report shows that the harmful effects of tobacco smoke are immediate: the chemicals are rapidly absorbed by the body, damaging blood vessels, weakening the immune system, and inflaming the delicate lining in the lungs. For both smokers and nonsmokers, exposure to tobacco smoke increases risk for heart disease, respiratory disease, diabetes, and cancer. For cancer patients, exposure to tobacco smoke weakens the body's ability to fight cancer and can promote tumor growth. For diabetics, exposure to tobacco smoke increases risk of heart and kidney disease, amputation, eye disease, nerve damage, and poor circulation. Across the nation, more than 440,000 people die every year from diseases related to smoking and exposure to tobacco smoke.

Many people are at least generally familiar with the hazards of firsthand and secondhand smoke. Less commonly known, but still hazardous to human health, is thirdhand smoke. Thirdhand smoke consists of the pollutants in tobacco smoke that linger in rooms and react with other compounds found in the indoor environment, long after cigarettes have been extinguished. According to a 2010 study led by researchers at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the reactions between the chemicals in thirdhand smoke and other common indoor pollutants can produce carcinogens for days, weeks, and even months after smoking in the room has stopped. Contrary to what some may believe, thirdhand smoke is much more than a lingering odor or an aesthetic irritation: it is a health hazard. Semivolatile compounds from thirdhand smoke settle on indoor surfaces, mix with dust and air, and are absorbed by carpets, upholstery, fabric, or other porous materials commonly found indoors. Infants and young children are especially at risk for exposure to thirdhand smoke because of common behaviors at their age that include crawling and hand-to-mouth contact, as well as because of their immature respiratory and immune systems. Nonsmokers who live or work in indoor environments where smoking occurs are also at risk of health complications be-

See NO SAFE on Next Page



Footloose on the pedestrian lane

What pedestrian lane? I walk from the corner of Heggao Pl. and Chalan Tun Apa (307 – numbers in parenthesis are highways) early mornings or late afternoons, often to the Northern Marianas College campus, down Chalan Msgr. Guerrero (31), the lower portion of Isa Drive by the intersection of Chalan Tun Pan (35) to Beach Rd.

Leg stretch tends to be between home and the bank at the Oleai Center and then a pick-up of kitchen items in San Jose. If there is still light late afternoon, we trudge back up the hill on that 30-degree incline, which would be a boon to the respiratory system except that there's heavy traffic in the thoroughfare. The carbon monoxide emission is more than just machos putting industrial scent into the air!

Sometimes we just head for Java Joe's bagel and Indo-caffeine, though one does take one's life quite dangerously to the edge on the stretch from NMC to Dandan Joeten. I called for a taxi from the college to go to Garapan this week, and the ride picked up a student he delivered to the Laundromat next to Java Joe's not a fifth of a mile away. Curious, I asked the very able-bodied student why he did not just walk, and he replied that it was his mom's idea since there is no pedestrian lane to walk on and it is suicidal to cross the traffic light on Highway 31.

The property between Heggao Pl. and NMC has uncleared growth by the road, which makes us wonder how the youth handle their walk home from school. The off-island few wheel-less students in my housing complex walk that route; I bring a flashlight at dusk to alert drivers of a pedestrian on the road. Given our propensity to pay idle personnel before infrastructure, the streetlights tend to be a relic of the past.

After Java's, sometimes I head to the establishments across the street (groceries, utilities, pharmacy, and video), unless GovCNMI is still holding my rebate check, which gives us cosmic permission to bother the folks at R&T. Recently, we wanted to renew our business license on a sole proprietorship gone inactive while mentoring pubescent youth but were summarily told to apply anew and that we needed to clear first with the zoning board across the hallway. We perused the steps taken for the new overlay of bureaucracy and we decided not to bother. The little financial pin drop that we might contribute to the bankrupt treasury will probably not be missed, but the goodwill went south quickly.

But that is not what gets our feet itchy the most. To loosen up the joints, we sometimes head toward Chalan Msgr. Martinez (37), turn right on Chalan Doi (306) and another right to Chalan Apa. Sometimes, we do the reverse by turning right on Doi from Apa toward the CK PO (our preferred route save the boondie dogs and other than the PO, leads nowhere), and except for the cemented section between the runoff canal and the road, any semblance of a pedestrian lane is mostly in the mind. On rainy days, the side of the road gets soggy with stagnant water, leaving the walking shoes and socks mushy, and the in-between-toes susceptible to coral fungus itch.

The 2010 phone book shows a completed Texas Rd. After being chased by dogs during my bike-riding days when I availed of the shade

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



from Oleai to CK, I had not been back in that direction awhile. This week, I went on a daring two-hour triangular walk from Apa to CK Texas and return through NMC. Texas Rd. from the back of MHS to Oleai ES, is still nonexistent. A good walk, but not on a rainy soggy day. The good news: the dogs are now apparently on leashes!

This is not a complaint. It is merely to alert health freaks who may be tempted to fight diabetes by taking to the road on foot. The reason there is no pedestrian traffic (except me and the Chinese stragglers, farm hands saving every penny of their earnings) is that our roads are not pedestrian friendly. It seems that unless a drainage went with the road construction, the design is oblivious of pedestrian and pedal bi-wheel traffic.

A pity. We are a mere 5-by-12-mile island. Walking comes naturally, biking a breeze. But our learned habits and infrastructure do not encourage going on foot. Just watch the obesity in our schools, NMC and second generation "aliens" included, and one is clear we are more than just our calorie intake. The flat terrain between San Antonio and Tanapag, give or take a few dip-and-rise undulations, is ideal for walking and biking.

The rule is that a student at PSS has to live a mile away from the school to be included in a bus route, and only if one lived in the geographical area the school covers. Do students walk to and from school? Hardly. SVES requires guardian's permission to allow children to leave the premises on foot because there had been too many motorists running into pedestrian students on the road! The new intersection light on the old roundhouse might help but like the NMC one, we are not holding our breath.

Lifestyle change is today's frequent prescription. We watched the Marshallese develop into turdy lards in 200-meter-by-a-mile Ebeye as chiefs required a ride. Health reports show that the populace doomed itself before one offered to make Bikini a nuclear dump and the onset of climate warming actually returns the rule of underwater corals and fish.

YES magazine features an article on why the royal princes of Himalayan Bhutan pedal wheels. One might suggest a bike as a price for the Liberation Day royals and other kings, queens, prince and princesses of the realm, and let Public Works start clearing us some pedestrian and bike lanes!

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

'Dreaming in Chinese'

Given that an increasing number of folks on Saipan are jetting to China, usually to make business inroads, *Dreaming in Chinese*, by Deborah Fallows, is a book worth reading. Actually, the book will appeal to anyone who has even cursory curiosity about Chinese, including anyone who has ever stared at the mysterious squiggles on a Chinese sign and wondered how such a exotic language works.

The book is an engaging account of the author's struggles with Mandarin Chinese during her three-year stint in the middle kingdom. Fallows offers solid linguistic insights and a lot of humorous anecdotes here, while steering clear of the preachy cultural critiques that many writers dispense by the gallon these days.

She certainly does describe elements of the culture, but she does it without either finger-wagging or fawning.

Indeed, Fallows doesn't take herself too seriously, which is what makes her narrative so fun. But she's no lightweight: She's a Harvard graduate and professional linguist, and, incidentally, the wife of James Fallows, a well-known American writer.

Before going to China she took a few terms of Mandarin at Georgetown University. So far, so good, right?

Well, not so fast. "Our entry to China was rough," she writes. "...I could not recognize or utter a single word of the Chinese I had been studying."

Hey, if she has a hard time with Chinese, then a slob like me shouldn't feel so bad about my shortcomings in the tongue. Which is pretty much the point of the book, or one of the points, or, well, maybe it's simply the point I find most compelling.

Of course, once she was in China, it was pretty much sink or swim. But despite the imperatives of the situation, and the language saturation of being in-country, she still faced a challenge.

"I could try to memorize the same words two or three or four times over, only to have them slip away again," she writes. "It probably took a good 18 months before I pummeled enough into my head to accumulate a critical, usable mass of vocabulary."

Eighteen months! That's some kind of genius. I'm thinking in my case I'll be lucky if I can do that in 18 years. When it comes to Chinese, my brain is like a conveyor belt; when I drop a new word on one end of it, another word is falling off the other end. It's a zero-sum mechanism.

Anyway, we join Fallows on her shopping adventures, taxi trips, beauty shop excursions, and so on, as she settles into life in China. But it's not really a chronological yarn. Instead, each of the book's 14 chapters covers a different aspect of the language. It's a clever way to structure a narrative, and it works well.

One chapter is "Why the Chinese hear tones, and we don't." Amen to that. The tones seem so simple at first glance, but they're exasperatingly difficult in the heat of conversational reality. One obvious problem, of course, is that, while we might use an occasional inflection, Americans aren't geared to using tones. What's less obvious, but no less important, is that the Chinese aren't geared to not using tones. So when you use the "right" word but the wrong tone, the Chinese can't usually separate those two elements and solve the mystery, since, to them, the tone and the word are integral.

One technique Fallows tried, then eventually abandoned, was to assign a certain color to each tone (there are four tones, plus a neu-

By **ED STEPHENS JR.**

Special to the Tribune

Visit [Ed Stephens Jr. at TropicalEd.com](http://EdStephensJr.com). Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.



tral tone) whenever she learned a new word. She also describes a teacher who uses the "full body" technique, going aerobic in order to convey various tones. These quirky measures are a reflection of just how difficult a problem this tone thing really is.

Fallows dedicates a chapter to Chinese names, how they are chosen and structured, which is one of those important things that nobody usually bothers to explain.

She also addresses a minor mystery that bugged me: The reading seems easier to me than the speaking and hearing. So I was relieved to learn that my lopsided learning is common. "Most people will tell you they do better with either the visual or the oral part of Chinese," she observes.

Dreaming in Chinese concludes with a little glossary of Chinese words. The book is 205 pages and published by Walker & Company. My hardcover copy lists a price of \$22. Although Saipan's Bestseller does not have it in stock, they advised me they can order it.

Letter to the Editor

Island Session rocks the boat on Luta

While in the mist of the entire economic calamity our people have been compelled to deal with, a group of fellow Chamorro in the West Coast got together and formed an organization to promote our histories, preserve our culture, and give back to their community in the CNMI.

The Island Session—through a group of panels, supporters, and most importantly our people living out in the stateside—have come together once again to show their support to a small group of girls ages 8-18 years on Rota by sponsoring the "Island Beat Dancers" to perform and showcase their talents at the 2011 San Isidro Fiesta on March 19, 2011, at the San Isidro grounds.

As a mother and a resident of Rota I would like to give my most heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the Island Session group in Salem, OR. Your mission to reach out to our youth and children has

made a tremendous positive impact on this groups of girls. And although the group is small, the bottom line is that you have inspired them and you will see its ripple effect from hereon after. With the Island Session's optimistic mission, our Chamorro people will not forget who they are, where they came from, but most importantly you are protecting our culture from extinction while living the dream in the promised land.

You could log on to this link to watch Island Session live every Tuesday evening: <http://www.ustream.tv/user/AtmospheriqTides/> videos

Island Session, you rock the boat on Luta!

Ha'ani Joy Manglona Taisacan
Sinapalo Village, Rota

'Rightsizing' may not lower cost

It is commendable that the administration is making good on the recommendations and findings of the MAI's desk audits of DCCA and Department of Public Safety. It seems as though the focus is more a "rightsizing" approach as opposed to a "downsizing" action. It is satisfying that not one recommendation by MAI involves "up-sizing" action. Nonetheless, farming out the excess functions and duplicative services to other existing agencies in the CNMI government organizational structure may not be conducive to reducing the cost of government that is being implied by the so-called downsizing efforts. I am guessing that this is the case because we rely exclusively on your publication for bits of information on the issue and we run the risk of making a wrong inference when we have no access to the actual MAI report.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

NO SAFE

From Page 10

cause of frequent and/or prolonged exposure to both secondhand and thirdhand smoke.

In her preface to *How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease*, the Surgeon General notes, "The cost [of smoking and exposure to smoke] to the nation is tremendous: a staggering amount is spent on medical care and lost productivity. But more importantly there is immeasurable cost in human suffering and loss."

Smoke-free laws protect public health and do not negatively impact economies

One of the most effective ways to improve public health and protect communities from exposure to tobacco smoke is to ban smoking in public places. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, studies have shown that the benefits of smoke-free laws around the country include significant declines in hospital admissions for heart attack; reduced coronary disease; reduced public exposure to tobacco smoke; encouragement to smokers to quit; and either no effect or a positive effect on total restaurant and bar revenues. In the state of Hawaii, a 2008 study commissioned by the Hawaii State Department of Health showed that tourism and hospitality economic indicators were unaffected by the state's smoke-free law one year after its enactment. Hawaii, like the CNMI, is heavily dependent on tourism, including tourism from Asian countries.

Indeed, public smoking bans have become a common trend, and have been implemented across the nation and around the world. As of 2010, as many as 36 states, plus the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the CNMI, and many other cities and municipalities in countries around the world, including Japan, China, Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand, and the Philippines, have enacted smoke-free laws to protect public health

Bills to expand smoking in hotels, professional offices, and bars now pending in the CNMI Legislature

Here in the CNMI, several bills have been introduced that would amend the Smoke-Free Air Act of 2010 in order to expand smoking in public places. One of the main objectives of these bills is to increase the percentage of smoking-designated rooms in hotels in response to requests made by the hospitality industry and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. Currently, CNMI hotels are allowed to designate up to 20% of their rooms as smoking rooms. Earlier this month, the House of Representatives passed House Bill 17-70, HS1 to permit hotels to designate up to 80% of their rooms for smoking. (The original bill

ON THE NET

House Bill 17-70 and 17-70, HS1:
http://www.cnmileg.gov.mp/leg_sts.asp?legID=966&secID=1
Senate Bill 17-37:
http://www.cnmileg.gov.mp/leg_sts.asp?legID=1574&secID=2

also proposed to allow smoking in restaurants, but that provision was deleted in the version that ultimately passed the House.) The House bill is now before the Senate for action, along with another bill, Senate Bill 17-37, which proposes to allow hotels to designate up to 30% of their rooms for smoking, and to further permit smoking in professional offices and in bars (including attached bars in restaurants) as long as the areas are "fully ventilated." (The law presently allows smoking in bars and attached bars in restaurants after the kitchens have closed, provided that smoke from these places does not infiltrate into areas where smoking is prohibited). Some senators have indicated that additional amendments are likely to be proposed on the Senate floor at their next session, including one that will limit the scope of legislation to allow smoking in up to 30% of hotel rooms and balconies only, and another that would allow smoking in restaurants.

Both the House and the Senate bills indicate that economic reasons

are the primary force behind the effort to expand smoking areas in the CNMI. Neither bill, however, cites any studies to show that the CNMI's Smoke-Free Air Act has had any negative economic impact on the hospitality industry, or on any other industry. The statistics that are cited in the bills relate to the prevalence of smoking in countries from which many of the CNMI's tourists originate; however, these statistics warrant further examination. For example, Senate Bill 17-37 states that 350 million people smoke in China; this equates to approximately less than 30% of China's total population. In other words, more than 70% of the people in China do not smoke. As another example, the same bill states that 40% of the Japanese male population are smokers; overall, however, the actual prevalence of smoking in Japan as of 2010 is approximately 24%, a record low for that country for the 15th consecutive year. Russia has a high prevalence of smoking (53% according to the Senate bill, but more like 43% according to other reports), but even Russia is today contemplating smoke-free laws for public places.

The Senate is scheduled to act on the proposed amendments to the CNMI's smoke-free law this Friday, Jan. 28, 2011 at 1:30pm at the Senate Chamber. No public hearings have been held by either chamber on either of the bills pending in the legislature. Written or oral testimonies will be accepted, however, at the Senate session on Friday during the public comments period. Interested persons who would like to review the bills or submit comments may contact Sen. Ralph Torres, chairman of the Senate Health & Welfare Committee, at senatortorres@gmail.com or 664-8874.

Meanwhile, the Community Guidance Center at the Department of Public Health is planning to conduct surveys of CNMI tourists regarding their views of the CNMI's smoke-free law, and to compile local tobacco-related data including tobacco-related deaths, medical referral costs, and other health and economic impacts. Many health advocates believe that more objective studies on the economic and health impacts of the CNMI's Smoke-Free Air Act, as well as more public hearings, are critical for informing the community and policymakers in making evidence-based decisions regarding policies that affect public health.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲85° ▾76°

▲85° ▾76°

▲85° ▾77°

▲85° ▾77°

▲85° ▾77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲84 ▾77
Palau	Showers	▲86 ▾78
Yap	Rain	▲87 ▾76
Chuuk	Rain	▲85 ▾79
Pohnpei	Sunny	▲87 ▾77
Kosrae	Showers	▲86 ▾78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▾77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Thunderstorms	▲72 ▾69
Beijing	Sunny	▲32 ▾11
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲62 ▾45
Honolulu	Sunny	▲80 ▾68
London	Mostly Sunny	▲37 ▾32
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲72 ▾45
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85 ▾72
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲82 ▾56
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲71 ▾46
New York	Snow	▲35 ▾24
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲45 ▾33
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲33 ▾27
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲38 ▾22
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲55 ▾38
Salem	Showers	▲54 ▾44
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲65 ▾48
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲24 ▾8
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲46 ▾33
Washington, DC	Snow	▲40 ▾28

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:59 AM	Today	High Tide: 1.4 Feet
8:15 AM	Today	Low Tide: 1.2 Feet
1:53 PM	Today	High Tide: 1.9 Feet
9:52 PM	Today	Low Tide: 0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:13 PM	Today	1:28 AM	1:02 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM	Saturday	2:26 AM	1:55 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:14 PM	Sunday	3:22 AM	2:51 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:14 PM	Monday	4:16 AM	3:46 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:15 PM	Tuesday	5:05 AM	4:40 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:47 AM	6:13 PM	Today	1:28 AM	1:02 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM	Saturday	2:26 AM	1:55 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:14 PM	Sunday	3:22 AM	2:51 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:14 PM	Monday	4:16 AM	3:46 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:15 PM	Tuesday	5:05 AM	4:40 PM

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■ BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.

■ Photos must have been taken in the last two months.

■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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MVA posts historic drop in Japan visitor arrivals

» Other key markets save arrivals for NMI, posts 7% hike in CY'10

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The number of Japanese tourists coming to the islands went down to a historic low last year, comprising less than 50 percent of all the visitors to the CNMI in 2010.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio said this worrying scenario means there is a need to rebuild the CNMI's key tourist market of Japan.

"For the first time in the history of NMI tourism, we are seeing Japan drop to less than 50 percent of our visitor arrivals. This is dangerous situation, as Japan is the mainstay of our tourism economy," he said.

Tenorio underscored the need

2 men arrested for domestic violence

A man was arrested for allegedly assaulting his former common-law wife who has disabilities, while another man was arrested for allegedly pushing and dragging his girlfriend in separate incidents on Saipan early this week.

Donald Kileman, 43, and Milton Borja Camacho, 30, were brought to the Superior Court yesterday afternoon for bail hearings.

Kileman was arrested for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace, while Camacho was apprehended for assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and interfering with a domestic call.

Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that on Tuesday night, while the victim was eating dinner inside her kitchen in Kagman II, the uninvited Kileman arrived and sat on a chair behind her.

Fed up with Kileman watching her eat, the victim walked outside of her house and told him not to come to her property whenever he wanted to.

Kileman allegedly attempted to punch the victim, but she held on to his arm, resulting in

four flights a week being rerouted from Saipan to Palau starting Dec. 22. This resulted in a loss of 728 air seats per week from the Japan market.

In addition, MVA noted only three charter flights from Japan in December 2010 compared to 22 charter flights in December 2009.

MVA said the loss of flights from Narita was partially mitigated by the relaunch of daily non-stop service from Osaka on Dec. 12 by Asiana Airlines, which provides 250 air seats per flight to the CNMI until April this year. However, this flight is scheduled to run seasonally only.

In December 2010 alone, arrivals from Japan dropped 9 percent, coming in at just 14,279.

MVA said that, while December is usually a peak travel season, one of the triple daily flights from Narita was reduced to only three times a week, with

her falling to the ground.

Kileman allegedly hit the victim again, this time hitting her left cheek, causing scratches and swelling.

With respect to Camacho, the victim had gone out of their apartment in Chalan Kanoa on Monday night. As she was getting into her car, Camacho came running toward her and shouting at her.

As they were walking back to the apartment, the victim jumped over the side railings and ran to the main road. Camacho chased her and allegedly pushed her back to the apartment.

When the victim took her cell phone to dial 911 for police assistance, the defendant allegedly grabbed it and threw it against the wall.

An off duty police officer who was in the area called the Department of Public Safety after he saw Camacho dragging the victim back to the apartment from her car.

When a police officer arrived, the victim ran to the police vehicle. Camacho was arrested Tuesday at 12:36am.

(Ferdie de la Torre)

Non-stop service from Nagoya was also re-launched on Dec. 22 and will continue this month. The Nagoya service, with 182 air seats per flight, will operate three times a week through February 2011, except for daily flights operated on Dec. 29 through Jan. 2 and a suspension of flights from Jan. 10 to Feb. 1. The Nagoya flights are expected to operate daily in March 2011.

Increased numbers

According to MVA, visitor arrival increased by 7 percent in calendar year 2010 compared

to 2009, due to the increasing number of visitors from other markets such as Korea, China, and Russia.

The total figure is still 5 percent below 2008 arrivals. Records show that arrivals to the islands reached just 370,091 in 2010 compared to 397,274 in 2008.

MVA said that arrivals from Korea increased by 3 percent due to high travel demand for the winter peak season. Air seats from Korea grew 8.9 percent in December 2010 because of the increase in Pusan-Saipan flights from twice weekly to four

times a week starting on Dec. 1. Korea has posted consistent monthly gains in arrivals to the CNMI through 2010 compared to 2009.

The China market, meantime, posted a 178-percent jump in arrival in December 2010 with total arrivals of 3,617.

Arrivals from Russia were also up by 39 percent, with 559 total arrivals.

MVA said arrivals from most other markets were mixed, with arrivals from Guam, the U.S., and the Philippines down slightly and arrivals from Taiwan and other areas slightly up.

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Language, map changes in zoning law proposed

»Only 5 attend Wednesday's public hearing

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members and staff of the Commonwealth Zoning Board presented on Wednesday their proposed amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008, mostly concentrated on the law's text and accompanying zoning maps.

A comprehensive explanation on the proposed amendments was conducted during a public open house at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

"Through the proposed amendments, we aim to provide the community with a better zoning law that is more relevant to the general public," said zoning administrator Douglas Wyatt.

Wyatt said the proposed amendments were based not only on the suggestions from the board and staff but also from the public's opinion recorded through various village meetings and public workshops conducted early last year.

The proposed text amendments include 10 specific areas, which are better defined regulations to allow for the practice of small and large-scale aquaculture; a more lenient review process of home-based businesses; permitting

of single-family residence in all zoning districts; allow temporary use of concrete batch plants in all zoning districts; regulating the general appearance of residences in tourist areas; prohibition of off-street parking in Garapan; subdivision regulations; cargo container use; expanding land use table; and increased planning review of the development of Marpi area.

According to Wyatt, allowing single family residences in almost all districts can help ensure that people who own land can utilize it for housing purposes. "Because of strict land ownership laws on Saipan, the ability to sell off land property is fairly limited," he added.

Permitting certain businesses

such as apartment buildings, professional offices, and small aquaculture projects that meet certain requirements or for conditional use permits were also proposed to "reflect the nature of residential living on Saipan" and "encourage more walkable neighborhoods."

The use of cargo containers shall be regulated under the proposed amendments because of the increasing number of businesses and residences that utilize them for storage which has caused the "demise of character and appearance" of major roads on island, said Wyatt.

Wyatt also noted the need for better planning review on the Marpi area which is part of the public resource zone, citing its historical significance as a tour-

ist destination on island.

For changes on the zoning maps, zoning planner Therese Ogumoro said they propose to rezone certain lots to Village Commercial and add more Mixed Commercial zones.

According to Ogumoro, the rezoning along major streets will start 300 feet from the center line of the road.

Ogumoro added the map will be divided in 29 colored sheets to make the map simpler and easier to understand.

Low participation

Aside from board members and staff, only five individuals attended Wednesday's public open house but Wyatt remains positive that the next schedule on Feb. 2 will have better turnout.

"We hope to have more people because it's important that they participate in this process of discussing the proposed amendments. We certainly want their input," Wyatt told *Saipan Tribune*.

Wyatt said the public can read the proposed amendments on their website at www.zoning.gov.mp and submit their comments by sending an email to ZoningBoard@zoning.gov.mp.

For more information, call 234-9661.

CDA's debt relief program is 'a success'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Of the 33 clients under the Debt Relief Program of the Commonwealth Development Authority, only four clients have failed to meet required monthly payments within the last three years.

Loan manager Oscar C. Camacho said that out of the four clients, two had been removed from the program because one was given an ultimatum, while the other was referred to counsel for collection for failure to comply with agreed terms.

According to Camacho, they are close to finalizing debt relief documents on four more clients whose issues had something to do with land titles.

Camacho said there are 14 clients who also want to avail of the program to assist them in their loan payment.

"The Debt Relief Program is a success... There is roughly \$8 million in the portfolio, bringing \$30,000 in monthly payments and yielding over \$12,000 monthly in interest income," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*.

Camacho said they want to make people feel hope in the face of increasing fuel prices and utilities, austerity measures, job losses, and business closures.

"By providing opportunities for businesses to thrive... little things like reducing interest rates help to project this 'environment of hope,'" said Camacho.

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Feel the difference

Fitial: Either closure or OPA could do own probe on AG

» Governor says he has yet to consult Buckingham whether to release OPA report
 » Sablan: Share the truth with the community

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
 haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
 REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said yesterday that the Office of the Public Auditor could either follow his recommendation of putting behind them the issue of Attorney General Ed Buckingham's involvement in a private party for a delegate candidate in September 2010, or "go on his own" which may include having OPA hire its own lawyer to pursue the matter.

"There are only two options that he [public auditor] has: whether to follow my recommendation and that is to put a closure to this, or go on his own. I'm going to see which option he takes," Fitial said in an impromptu news conference yesterday morning after signing into law a shark fin ban bill.

When asked to elaborate, he said OPA "can pursue" whatever it wants. "But, if he wants to continue...he has to hire a lawyer to do that," Fitial said.

With Fitial's blessing, Buckingham hired a private counsel for \$200 an hour to represent him in his official and personal capacity in con-

nnection with OPA's notice of alleged criminal and ethical violations investigation.

'No violation'

Fitial said Buckingham did not violate any law when he attended a gathering for what the governor said was meant to endorse Covenant Party delegate candidate Joe Camacho in September.

The governor said Buckingham did not endorse the candidate at the party held at Fitial's private residence in Gualo Rai.

But he said he has yet to consult Buckingham whether to release the OPA report to the public.

Former representative Tina Sablan said since the governor refuses to release the OPA's investigation report on the attorney general, "we can only assume that violations of the law were found by the public auditor."

"If no violations were found by the public auditor, I am sure the governor and attorney general would have no problem re-

leasing the report and we would not be hearing these hollow protests from them about how important it is to maintain confidentiality," Sablan said.

The governor said after reading the OPA report, he said "some of the findings are factual, but some are political, and that's where he and I disagree."

When asked whether OPA said

that there was a violation or wrongdoing, the governor said: "The OPA said that the attorney general should not be involved in politics. So the attorney general agreed."

Fitial said the attorney general immediately recused himself from any election-related activity.

Public apology

He also said OPA wanted the attorney general to issue a public apology, but Fitial did not agree with this.

Fitial said Buckingham already apologized to the public. He also said Buckingham remains the CNMI attorney general.

"Not only he already acknowledged that that was probably not the right thing for him to do as an attorney general [to attend a party at the governor's private residence] but he removed himself completely from the election, so that he would not have anything to do with it," the governor said.

Fitial also disclosed for the first time that Buckingham was not even able to cast his vote in the election.

"He never told me but I found out, he even failed to vote. He never voted. He never told me about it. I found out," he said.

Sablan said "what we have

on our hands now are a chief executive and an attorney general who will not accept responsibility for misconduct and in fact will go to great lengths to conceal that misconduct."

Fitial, in an impromptu news conference yesterday, said the public auditor wrote him another letter on Wednesday.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked yesterday afternoon, said "OPA's letter is still being reviewed by the governor."

"When review is completed, then appropriate steps that will follow shall be determined," he said.

Fitial, when asked whether he feels any sense of responsibility that the issue has gone too far, said, "Probably. Yeah, probably. But as long as there was no law violated, but probably, exemption, be-

cause it was an election, it's a political issue. Probably you know having it at my house is not the right thing to do, but it was not illegal."

'Do the right thing'

Sablan said "someone, somewhere in this community, has access to this report, or knows someone who does."

"Someone, somewhere has a conscience that is bothered by the secrecy and the audacity of this administration. I would encourage this person to do what is right by his or her conscience and share the public auditor's report—and the truth—with the community," she said.

The former lawmaker said whistleblowers play an incredibly important role in protecting and defending democracy, "and one of the most effective

See FITIAL on Next Page



Buckingham

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**SHARK ADVOCATES**

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos are joined by lawmakers and supporters of the shark fin ban bill that he signed into law yesterday in the conference room of the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) prefiled a bill on Tuesday that would present the question to voters whether to convene another constitutional convention to propose amendments to the CNMI Constitution.

Ogumoro said her House Bill 17-148 aims to present the question to voters in the next general election in November 2012.

"It does not advocate nor recommend a position relative to the question," Ogumoro said.

Her HB 17-148 is one of the 21 bills, local bills, resolutions and joint resolutions that are scheduled to be formally introduced in today's House session at 1pm.

The Senate will also hold a session also at 1pm today.

Ogumoro said the specific question to voters is: "Should there be a constitutional convention to propose amendments to the Constitution?"

The first constitutional convention delegation adopted the CNMI Constitution on Dec.

5, 1976, and ratified by voters on March 6, 1977. There were 6,554 votes in favor of ratification, and 258 opposed.

The Constitution went into effect on Jan. 9, 1978, and has since been amended over 50 times.

There were two constitutional conventions since 1978.

Voters ratified on Nov. 3, 1985, all 44 amendments that the second constitutional convention proposed that year.

In 1995, a third constitutional convention was held, wherein all 19 amendments proposed failed to win voters' approval.

An amendment proposed by constitutional convention becomes effective if approved by a majority of the votes cast and at least two-thirds of the votes cast in each of two senatorial districts.

Under Article XVIII, constitutional amendments may be proposed by constitutional convention, popular initiative, or legislative initiative.

Ogumoro, in her bill, said it is necessary to present the question to voters once again.

FITAL*From Page 15*

ways to strike at the heart of a corrupt government is to open up its secrets and demand accountability."

"The public auditor's report has become one such secret," she added.

Confidentiality

Buckingham, when interviewed, reiterated that OPA has extraordinary power.

He was also in the conference room when the governor was being interviewed by reporters.

"They have the power to investigate and receive confidential information. The duty of the auditor is to absolutely keep whether an investigation exists or report confidential. I am not in a position to comment, confirm, deny about a report," he said.

He added, "What I will say unequivocally is what I've said before. Yes, there was an appearance of impropriety. Yes, I took immediate steps to recuse myself from the election. The governor's right. I didn't even vote in the election. I complied with the law throughout my tenure as the attorney general and no one is in a position to say with any kind of evidence that I violated any law. Period."

He said he cannot comment on the issue, even as the public is aware that an investigation has been conducted and a report on it was released to the governor and a few individuals.

"In the event that a law may have been broken, and when I mean by law being broken, disclosure of a confidential piece of information, that

would be a violation of the law. That would be a crime. I'm not about to facilitate a crime by commenting on it. The duty of the auditor is to maintain confidentiality. I have nothing to say relative to that issue. Period," he added.

OPA's non-disclosure

Public Auditor Michael Pai or OPA has neither released the report to the public or commented on any ethics investigation, citing statutory restrictions.

He cited 1 CMC section 8563, which provides that any complaints, investigations, or recommendations shall be confidential. Indeed, the law provides personal sanctions upon the public auditor for any breach of the confidentiality provision, he said.

Pai said the law does allow OPA to publish summary opinions or to comment publicly on the disposition of investigations; "however, any such opinion or comment shall not disclose the identity of the person or the specific transaction complained of," he said.

The public auditor said in small communities like the CNMI, such public opinion or comment is nearly impossible without revealing, by implication, the individual or the transaction complained of.

"While the lack of OPA's ability to comment and the opacity of the complaint, investigation and recommendation process might be dissatisfying to the press and appear unfair to the interested public, OPA cannot defy existing law. OPA must defer to the wisdom of the CNMI Legislature in enacting laws in the best interest of the public," he said.

Members of the Legislature have been mum on the issue.

Golden Harvest students do well in forensic competition

The administration, faculty, staff, and parents of the Golden Harvest International School were delighted about the result of the Primary Grade Forensic Competition held at the Koblerville Elementary School on Jan. 22, 2011.

The school's students from K-2 and 3-5 Divisions won various places in all the events they participated in. Coaches were proud to say that the labor and hours of sweat during trainings paid off and the children deserved the awards they got.

The school extended its thanks to the parents who served and volunteered to be judges: Amy Ibanez, Elenita Duarte, Belinda Acosta, and James Arzadon.

K-2 DIVISION

1st place Dramatic Interp: Devin Ross Ayuyu
2nd place HI-A: Tyana Hix
2nd place HI-B: Devin Ross Ayuyu
2nd place DI-A: Hannah Lacap
2nd place DUO-A: Jewel Combinido, Kyla Raquel
2nd place CSPK-A: Tyana Hix, Chareena Laguyan, Chariz Pasaylo
2nd place CSPK-B: Arman Cabrera, Marlon Pineda Jr.,
Jylon Sablan
3rd place DUO-A: Nathan Guanzing, Daniel Gonzales
3rd place DUO-B: Chariz Pasaylo, Jylon Sablan
4th place HI-A: Jude Litulumar
4th place DI-C: Jewel Combinido
4th place DUO-B: Stephanie Flores, Yvonne Abustan

Students of the Golden Harvest International School have their picture taken after participating in the Primary Grade Forensic Competition at the Koblerville Elementary School on Jan. 22, 2011.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



3-5 DIVISION

1st place DI-A: Marione Corpus
1st place DI-B: Joseph Yanto
1st place DUO-A: Matthew Leon Guerrero, Angelo Talens
1st place DUO-B: Fernand Ramos, Mark Ibanez
1st place CSPK: Angelo Talens, Mark Ibanez, Fernand Ramos, Matthew Ramos
2nd place HI-A: Joseph Yanto
2nd place RF-A: Aaron Esquivel
3rd place RF-B: Davean Gonzales
4th place CSPK-A: Mark Galang, Davean Gonzales, Aaron Esquivel, Marione Corpus
4th place DI-A: Mark Ira Galang

EMO warns of high surf until Monday

The Emergency Management Office warned the seagoing public yesterday that winds and seas are expected to become hazardous to small craft starting last night until Monday morning.

In an advisory issued yesterday, EMO said that a shear line moving into the Marianas waters would increase the north swell and wind waves would produce hazardous surf along north facing reefs beginning last night.

A high surf and small craft advisory is now in effect from Thursday evening through early Monday morning.

A small craft advisory means that seas 10 feet or greater and sustained winds of 22 knots or higher are expected to pro-

duce conditions hazardous to small craft. Combined seas will build to 10 to 11 feet last night and reach 12 to 13 feet Friday through Saturday. Winds of 20 to 25 knots are expected.

The EMO is strongly advising the public, mariners, and boaters to avoid navigating in these conditions.

"If travel by boat is necessary, exercise caution, especially when entering or leaving harbors and inlets and near reef lines. Wear flotation gear. Also, avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north facing reefs as rip currents are life threatening," states the EMO advisory. (*Saipan Tribune*)

Guam's Bordallo reacts to Obama's SOTU

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo on Wednesday attended a joint session of Congress to receive the State of the Union from President Barack Obama. Bordallo invited Judiciary of Guam Chief Justice F. Philip Carbullido to be her guest, and he viewed the State of the Union from the House Gallery.



Bordallo

the challenges ahead. There will be a concerted effort to reduce federal spending by targeting unproductive federal programs for cuts. More strategic and wise investments in infrastructure and job creation will help grow the economy. Although the details of the budget have yet to be released, I expect the Administration to support Guam's infrastructure needs so that the military build-up can stay on track. I believe that Congress will have difficult choices to make as we grapple with the federal deficit, and I am working to ensure that Guam's needs are met in the budget process." (*PR*)

"During tonight's State of the Union, President Obama highlighted the need to revitalize our economy and get people back to work so that our nation remains competitive in a 21st century global marketplace," said Bordallo. "The President shared his vision on what we must do to address

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The FHP Health Center will be moving to its new location at the TSL Plaza on February 7, 2011 to better serve you.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Cervical Health Forum today

All cervical cancer survivors and family members are invited to a Cervical Health Forum hosted by the Department of Public Health, Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, today, Jan. 28, at Pacific Islands Club, starting at 9am. The forum will include presentations by Dr. Jeanolivia Grant and other health providers and educators covering cervical cancer risk factors, risk reduction, and screening and support services. For more information or to RSVP, contact Joanne Ogo or Kim Sablan of the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at 236-8728. (PR)

San Roque Church to hold 2011 Walkathon tomorrow

San Roque Parish Church is launching its first fundraising activity this year dubbed the "2011 Walkathon – Un Parokia, Un Familia." This event will be held tomorrow, Jan. 29, 2011. Assembly place is at the parking lot of the Kan Pacific at 6am. Participants will walk all the way to Banzai Cliff. There will be a simple fellowship at the Banzai Cliff pavilion right after the walkathon. Light breakfast will be served.

The objectives of this walkathon are to promote health and wellness, foster camaraderie among parishioners, and to raise funds for the upgrade of church's sound system and for the concrete pavement of the church sidewalks.

Pledge forms are available at the Parish Office. Everyone is invited to join and support this parish activity. (PR)

Rummage Sale at Sr. Remedios tomorrow

The Sr. Remedios Early Childhood Development Center will be hosting a Multi-Family Rummage Sale tomorrow, Jan. 29, from 8am to 12pm, at the Sister Remedios School. Don't miss out! Lots of items to choose from and lots of big bargains. (PR)

SSHS report cards out soon

To all parents and legal guardians of Saipan Southern High School students, Term 2 Report Cards are scheduled to be picked up on Thursday, Feb. 3, 2011, from 3-6pm, at the counseling office. All students will be released at 1pm. (PR)

Anti-smoking bill amendment on Marianas Agupa

This Saturday, Jan. 29, 2011, Marianas Agupa will feature Sen. Luis Crisostimo, author of the anti-smoking amendment. The show starts at 10am to 10:30am on Magic 100.3 FM. Topic of discussion will be the anti-smoking bill that will amend Public Law 16-46, the anti-smoking law, and other proposed measures that will stimulate the CNMI economy.

The Chamorro talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. It will also feature reports by former mayor Joseph S. Inos, Thomas D. Mendiola from Rota, and former Tinian senator David M. Cing. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. (PR)

Cancer survivorship survey

The Asian & Pacific Islander National Cancer Survivors Network is asking all self-identified Asian-American and Pacific Islander cancer survivors to participate in a confidential survey that will be used to assess the psychosocial needs of Asian-American and Pacific Islander cancer survivors across the nation. The information gathered will be used for research on cancer survivorship among Asian-American and Pacific Islander communities, and will help tailor and/or advocate for culturally relevant and appropriate programs and services. The survey takes approximately 20-30 minutes to fill out, and participants must be 18 years of age or older.

Any questions or concerns should be directed to the principal investigator, Dr. Giang Nguyen, at 215-615-0355, or Dr. Mai-Nhung Le at mainhung@fsu.edu.

The survey can be found at www.aapihealth.org/study. If you are a self-identified Asian-American and/or Pacific Islander cancer survivor, take the time to fill out this important survey. (PR)

Survivors, caregivers support meeting

The next support meeting for cancer survivors and caregivers is on Feb. 23, 2011, starting at 5:30pm. Location and presentation topic to be announced later. For more information or to RSVP, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or cca@ccamarianas.org. (PR)

Join PIC Duck Race for Cancer

On Feb. 19, the Pacific Islands Club Saipan will once again host the popular 2011 Duck Race for Cancer, starting at 6pm. The Sports, Entertainment, & Activities staff will be selling ducks to the community to raise funds for the fight against cancer. Previous Duck Races for Cancer raised a combined total of \$10,000. Ducks cost \$5 apiece, and the grand prize is \$1,000 in cash, followed by \$300 and \$200 for the 2nd and 3rd place winners, respectively.

This year, PIC is adding a Corporate Category, and is inviting businesses to participate in the PIC Race Around the River. The first 16 companies to confirm will be granted slots in the corporate race.

For more information, contact Dennis Tababa, Sports Manager/Race director at 235-6231, Ext. 5173, or email sportsmanager@pic-saipan.com. (PR)

TURTLE WORKSHOP

Dr. Craig Severance of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council discusses the goals and objectives of the Mariana Archipelago Green Turtle Workshop Tuesday at the Lilac Room of the Saipan World Resort.



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CHILD CARE PROGRAM OPENS FOR NEW APPLICANTS

To: All parents and/or Legal Guardians:

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Child Care Program will be doing pre-eligibility assessments for new applicants. The program will open to a maximum of 130 children or slots only. Once all slots have been taken, pre-eligibility assessments will cease and no more applications will be provided.

Pre eligibility assessments will be done at the following locations, date, and time.

LOCATION	DATE	TIME
CCDF Office Bldg. 1347 Capitol Hill, Saipan	Feb. 4; Feb. 7; Feb. 8; Feb. 9	1:00p.m. to 4:00p.m.
Garapan Street Market	Feb. 3; Feb. 10	6:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.
Tinian DCCA Office	Feb. 9; Feb. 17	10:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.
Rota DCCA Office	Feb. 22; Feb. 23	1:00p.m. to 6:00p.m. (Feb. 22) 8:30a.m. to 3:00p.m. (Feb. 23)

Parents and/or Legal Guardians who are interested in applying for the program must go through the pre-eligibility process and will need to bring the following.

- Three (3) latest check stubs showing the applicant's name, hours worked 9at least 60 hours bi-weekly), hourly rate, and gross monthly earnings (both parents)
- Most recent 1040 tax (both parents)
- School documents (class schedule, must be full time 12 credit)
- Training School schedule (must have at least 60 training hours bi-weekly)

The Child Care Program Office will accept completed applications beginning Feb. 18 and the last day to submit applications will be Feb. 28. Completed applications along with the required documents should be forwarded to the Child Care Program Office Building No. 1347 Ascension Court Capitol Hill.

For questions regarding the Child Care Program please call 664-2575/2546/2587.

Requirements:

Applicant of Household

1. Check stubs for the most recent three pay periods for each parent or guardian
2. A copy of Identification Card for each parent or guardian (Passport, CNMI driver's license, Mayor's ID Card or entry permit)
3. A copy of your most recent 1040 Tax (each parent or guardian)
4. Residency: The applicant or guardian must be living in the CNMI
Provide one of the following documents
 - a. House Rental/Mortgage
 - b. Utility Receipt
 - c. Telephone Receipt
 - d. Entry Permit
5. Employment verification
6. Child support statement/stub
7. Training/Education Verification and class schedules
8. If single parent/guardian in a household provide notarized affidavit

Child/ Children Household member:

1. A copy of Birth Certificate for each child (Child must be a US citizen or a qualified alien, as defined in Personal Responsibility Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA)
2. A copy of US Passport
3. A copy of Social Security Card

Approved for distribution: /S/ Melvin L.O. Faisao
DCCA Secretary

Date: 01/25/2011

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Limit 1

Beef Back Spare Ribs
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\$25⁹⁹ 3 DAYS ONLY JAN. 28, 29 & 30
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Bear Brand Powdered Milk 180g.
\$14⁹⁹

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6000ml
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SEOK SU Dynamic Fresh
500ml. x 20
\$5⁹⁹ /CASE

Jasmine Lotus Rice
50 LBS.
(LIMIT 1)
\$25⁹⁹

Diamond G Calrose Rice 50 LBS.
(LIMIT 1)
\$26⁹⁹

Sapporo Ichiban
21pcs./case
(LIMIT 1)
\$8⁹⁹ /CASE

Marukiyo Rice Cracker
100pcs.
\$89⁹⁹

MH Coffee Mix
100 sticks
\$6⁹⁹ LIMIT 1

Milo 1kg.
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Bar-S Hotdog 1 lb. **\$1.15**

Fish 4 You Crab Meat Stick 16 oz. **\$1.99**

Ground Beef 5 LBS. **\$9.99** 10 LBS. **\$17.99**

Bar-S Hotlinks 24 oz. **\$3.99**

Hormel Mary Kitchen Corned Beef Hash 15 oz. **\$1.99**

Hormel Chili No Beans 15 oz. **\$1.79**

DM Beef Stew 15 oz. **\$1.79**

Coco Tuna 7oz. **\$1.19** Limit 6

3 Diamond Tuna **\$1.19** Limit 12

Hornel Corned Beef 12 oz. **\$1.99**

Mackarel/Pike Family Bag **\$6.99**

Peeled Shrimp SC Brand 1 lb. **\$2.99**

Ocean Best Marinara Mix 1 lb. **\$2.49**

Blue Crab Section Per Box **\$8.99**

Sun Flower A1 Sardines **\$2.39** 15oz. **\$1.39** 7.5oz.

Campbells Chicken Noodle Soup 10.7 oz. **99¢**

Cream of Mushroom 10 3/4 oz. **\$1.09**

Del Monte Whole Kernel Corn **89¢**

Carnation Evaporated 12 oz. (U.S.) **\$1.29**

Vega Shrimp 1 lb. **\$5.50** Limit 1

Imperial Choice Green Mussels 2 lbs. **\$4.99**

Chicken Wings 3 lbs. **\$6.99** /PACK
5.5 lbs. **\$12.99** /PACK

Milk Fish **\$1.39** /LB

Filma Cooking Oil 5L **\$9.99**

AVO Vegetable Oil 1 Gal. **\$7.99**

Vegetable Oil 5 Gal. LIMIT 1 **\$24.99**

Garden Fresco Vegetable Oil 1 Gal. **\$7.99**

Golden State White Vinegar 1 gallon **\$3.49**

Crisco Pure Vegetable Oil 64 oz. **\$8.99**

Tilapia **\$99¢** /LB

U.S. Extra Large Eggs Dozen **\$2.39**

Onion **79¢** /LB

Garlic **\$1.39** /BUNDLE

Vlasic Dill Pickles (Wholes) 1 Gal. **\$6.99**

Kikkoman 1.6 L. **\$3.99**

Lemon Powder 5.29 oz. **\$4.99**

Gold Medal Flour 5 lbs. Limit 2 pcs. **\$2.99**

Maseca 4.4 lbs. Limit 1 pc. **\$4.99**

Korean Butane Gas Limit 1 Case **\$20.99** CASE
3 DAYS ONLY JAN. 28, 29 & 30

Foam Cups 51 cents. **\$1.99**

Bounty Basic 15 ROLLS **\$16.99**

Bounty 15 Rolls **\$20.99**

Foam Plates 125 ct. **\$7.99**

Coco Mackerel 15 oz. **\$1.29**

Sugar 2 kg. **\$2.39**

Morton Iodized Salt 26 oz. **79¢**

Crisco Shortening 3 lbs. **\$4.99**
Vegetable **\$5.99** Butter

Nissin Cup Noodles 27 oz./box all flavors **\$5.99**

SUAVE SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER (15 OZ.) 2 PCS. **\$3.00**

Horse Shampoo 1 qrt. **\$3.00** EACH

Spoon & Fork No Brand Name 100 cts. **\$1.50**

Bottled White Candle (China) 12 pcs/case **\$13.99** /CASE

Huggies Big Pack (all size) **\$20.99**

Luvs Big Pack (All Size) **\$20.99**

Argo Corn Starch Limit 3 pcs. **99¢**

Kraft Cool Whip **16 OZ.** **\$3.50**

Philadelphia Original Cream Cheese **\$2.99**

Maxwell House 34.5 oz. **\$9.99**

Coffee Mate 50 oz. **\$8.99**

Folgers 33.9 oz. **\$10.99**

Cottonelle double 24-48 rolls **\$16.99**

Diamond Foil 200 Sq. Ft. **\$7.99**

FAMILY BAG SPECIAL

BEEF SHANK	\$10.95	BEEF BACK RIBS	\$7.95
FLANK STEAK	\$16.95	BEEF OXTAIL	\$16.95
PORK ADOBO	\$10.95	BEEF STEW	\$12.95
PORK CHOP	\$11.95	RIBEYE STEAK	\$17.95
PORK BELLY	\$11.95	BEEF TOP ROUND STEAK	\$14.95
STEWING CHICKEN	\$6.95	SMOKED HAM STEAK	\$12.95
TURKEY TAIL (FAMILY BAG)	\$4.99	PORK BUTT	\$10.95
U.S. CHOICE BEEF SHORTRIBS	\$14.99		

KOOL AID JAMMER 177ml. **\$2.99** /BOX

Coke Regular 24/Case Warm Only **\$13.99**

Ritz Drink All Flavor (warm only) **\$12.99**

Pepsi 330ml Warm Only **\$13.99** /CASE All Flavors

Budweiser/Budlight 24/Case Warm Only **\$26.99**
3 DAYS ONLY JAN. 28, 29 & 30

Business

Toyota recalls 1.7 million cars for fuel leaks

TOKYO (AP)—Toyota recalled nearly 1.7 million cars worldwide Wednesday for possible fuel leaks, the latest in a ballooning number of quality problems that could further tarnish the company's reputation in the United States.

The recalls are mostly in Japan, but include Lexus IS and GS luxury sedans sold in North America. That's where the world's No. 1 car company faces the biggest challenges in winning back customer trust.

U.S. dealers will inspect cars to see if loose fuel pressure sensors caused leaks. There were no accidents suspected of being caused by those problems, according to Toyota. The car

maker has received 77 complaints overseas, 75 of them in North America, and more than 140 in Japan.

The latest quality hitch follows a spate of recalls that began in late 2009, mostly in North America, which now cover more than 12 million cars and trucks. The recalls involve defective floor mats and gas pedals that get stuck, some of them suspected of causing unintended acceleration.

Wednesday's recalls come exactly one year after Toyota stopped selling eight models in the U.S. because of unintended acceleration problems. The sales suspension affected 60 percent of Toyota's lineup in the

U.S., and was the first of four sales halts last year.

Koji Endo, auto analyst with Advanced Research Japan Co. in Tokyo, said the newest recalls will cost Toyota about 20 billion yen (\$240 million), but won't hurt its earnings much.

"But there is that perception of here we go again, and that hurts Toyota's image, especially in North America," he said.

The biggest damage to Toyota's image has been in the U.S. where its response to safety problems was seen as slow. The company's U.S. sales lagged last year despite an industry recovery. Some believe that Toyota's relentless drive for growth hurt quality.

TOYOTA 10 million and counting

Over the past year and a half, the world's top automaker has recalled about 10 million cars and trucks for defects. Major events:

Sept. 2009 Nearly 4 million vehicles recalled for faulty gas pedals and floor mats that could trap accelerators

Jan. 2010 About 2.3 million U.S. vehicles recalled for potentially defective accelerator pedals

Feb. 2010 Akio Toyoda, the company's president, apologizes to the U.S. Congress and Toyota owners for quality lapses that led to deaths, recalls

April 2010 Toyota agrees to pay \$16.4 million fine in the U.S. for failing to report defects

July 2010 About 700,000 vehicles recalled to fix faulty transmissions

Aug. 2010 1.1 million Corolla sedans and Matrix hatchbacks recalled because their engines may stall

Oct. 2010 1.5 million Lexus, Avalon and other models recalled for problems with brake fluid and fuel pumps

Jan. 2011 1.2 million models being recalled in Japan, 421,000 overseas for possible fuel leakage

Source: AP; BBC
Graphic: Pat Carr

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Social Security fund now seen to be empty by 2037

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sick and getting sicker, Social Security will run at a deficit this year and keep on running in the red until its trust funds are drained by about 2037, congressional budget experts said Wednesday in bleaker-than-previous estimates.

The massive retirement program has been suffering from the effects of the struggling economy for several years. It first went into deficit last year but had been projected to post surpluses for a few more years before permanently slipping into the red in 2016.

This year alone, Social Security will pay out \$45 billion more in retirement, disability and survivors' benefits than it collects in payroll taxes, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said. That figure nearly triples—to \$130 billion—when the new one-year cut in payroll taxes is included.

Congress has promised to replenish any lost revenue from the tax cut, but that's hardly good news, either, adding to the federal budget deficit. In another sobering estimate, the congressio-

nal office said government red ink this year will increase to \$1.5 trillion, the most in U.S. history.

More than 54 million Americans receive Social Security benefits, averaging \$1,076 per month.

The outlook for the program has grown more sour as the nation has struggled to recover from the worst economic crisis since Social Security was enacted, during the Great Depression. In the short term, Social Security is suffering from the weak economy that has payroll taxes lagging and applications for benefits rising. In the long term, Social Security will be strained by the growing number of baby boomers retiring and applying for benefits.

The projected deficits add a sense of urgency to efforts to improve Social Security's finances. For much of the past 30 years, the program has run big surpluses, which the government has borrowed to spend on other programs. Now that Social Security is running deficits, the federal government will have to find money elsewhere to help pay for benefits.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Japan's export growth accelerates for second month

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's export growth accelerated for the second straight month in December, indicating a revival of overseas demand critical to the country's recovery. Exports from the world's third-largest economy rose 13 percent from a year earlier on greater shipments of machinery and motor vehicles, the finance ministry said Thursday. North American demand was especially strong, reflecting an improving U.S. economy. The latest result beat market expectations and is an improvement from the 9.1 percent year-on-year growth recorded in November.

Lawyer for Macau's Ho: Going to court over stake

HONG KONG (AP)—A law firm that says it represents ailing casino baron Stanley Ho is taking some of his wives and children to court, saying they improperly seized his stake in his Macau gambling empire. The legal action is the

latest twist in a family feud over who will control a multibillion dollar business that vies with Las Vegas Sands and Wynn Resorts for dominance in the world's biggest gambling market. Law firm Oldham Li and Nie released a statement through a public relations firm Thursday saying it has filed a writ of summons in Hong Kong's High Court.

Venezuela's Chavez threatens to expropriate bank

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Hugo Chavez threatened to expropriate a Spanish-owned bank on Wednesday, arguing that its managers have refused to grant loans to cash-strapped Venezuelans seeking to purchase homes amid a nationwide housing deficit. During a televised speech, Chavez accused the president of Banco Provincial, Pedro Rodriguez Serrano, of refusing to offer loans. The Venezuelan president raised the possibility of seizing control of the bank. Banco Provincial belongs to Spanish banks Banco Santander SA and Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria SA.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Pacific Marine & Industrial Corporation (PMIC), Power Plant 4 (PP4) is soliciting competitive proposals from qualified construction firm in the island for:

CONSTRUCTION OF:

- NEW SECONDARY CONTAINMENT BERM FOR HIGH SPEED DIESEL ENGINE AND TRANSFORMER AREA
- NEW FUEL PIPELINE SECONDARY CONTAINMENT BERM
- IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING BERMS INSIDE THE POWER PLANT 4 FACILITY LOCATED AT CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, PUERTO RICO, SAIPAN CNMI.

Interested firms are required to submit proposals to PMIC PP4 Office outlining their ability to supply EQUIPMENTS, MANPOWER and MATERIALS for the above mentioned projects.

Site inspection and copies of the BERM Engineering Drawing can be picked up at PMIC PP4 facility site from Monday to Friday from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Deadline for submission of proposals is on February 2, 2011. Target date for the start of work is on February 14, 2011.

Proposed completion of the project is on March 15, 2011.

For more information, contact:

Richard Cano
Plant Manager
Tel. (670) 322-6187

Carlito J. Marquez
Improvement Project Manager
Tel. (670) 322-6181

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BID NMHC IFB 2010-013

This ad is paid for with HUD funds.

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the **REHABILITATION OF THE SUSUPE SPORTS COMPLEX GYMNASIUM** in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning January 10, 2011, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI and austerity holidays. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidders are also advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act. All wage rates for laborers, mechanics and all other employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage or the wage determination for the Commonwealth as specified in CM20080001 for the Mariana Islands.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at **10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 18, 2011**, at the Susupe Sports Complex Gymnasium project site in Susupe, Saipan, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed project site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed Bids must be marked **NMHC IFB 2010-013**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, Tuesday, February 1, 2011**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, Tuesday, February 1, 2011 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@picom.com. For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service no later than Tuesday, February 1, 2011 AND must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than Tuesday, February 8, 2011. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, Wednesday, February 9, 2011. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m., local time, Tuesday, February 1, 2011.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Rehabilitation of the Susupe Sports Complex Gymnasium". Surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is one hundred fifty (150) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Two Hundred Dollars (US\$200.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

All documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC with the exception of the Bid Bond, Certified Check, or Cashier's Check, which will be returned to the proposers after the acceptance and award of contract to the successful contractor.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
NMHC Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

 NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

Nation

Doctors: Rep. Giffords ready to start full rehab

HOUSTON (AP)—Rep. Gabrielle Giffords on Wednesday left intensive care for the first time since she was shot in the head in Arizona more than two weeks ago, the latest big step in the long road to recovery.

With her progress moving at “lightning speed,” doctors had the Arizona lawmaker moved to TIRR Memorial Herman hospital, where she immediately began therapy that could last several months.

Doctors said she will have a valve inserted into her breathing tube to help her talk.

When asked if the congresswoman was able to speak, neurosurgeon Dr. Dong Kim said, “we can say that her speech function, along with everything else, is improving” but declined to elaborate.

But Giffords was making progress at “lightning speed,” he added.

Giffords, 40, had been in intensive care since her arrival Friday from Tucson, where she was shot Jan. 8 while meeting with constituents. The gunman killed six people and injured 13 others in a rampage outside a supermarket.

Doctors had said she would remain there until they were able to remove a tube that

had been placed in her head to drain excess cerebrospinal fluid. A backup of the fluid can cause pressure and swelling within the brain.

Kim said the catheter was removed Monday after a scan showed there was no longer a dangerous buildup of fluid.

The three-term Democratic lawmaker’s ability to swallow safely could mean she won’t need a tube feeding her much longer, said Dr. Imoigele Aisiku, director of neurocritical care at Memorial Hermann.

Giffords began physical, occupational and speech therapy just hours after she was transferred, under heavy guard, in an ambulance from the Texas Medical Center to Memorial Hermann.

“It’s a busy afternoon already and I anticipate it will be more so in the coming days,” Dr. Gerard Francisco, the head of her rehabilitation team, said at a news conference.

A breathing tube was placed in Giffords’ neck after she was shot. Aisiku said while she can breathe independently and swallow safely, the tube cannot be immediately removed because of the length of time it has been in place.

Instead, doctors will lessen

her dependence on it, a process that has already begun, until it can be safely removed.

Precise details on Giffords’ recovery were scant out of respect for the family’s wishes, doctors said. They did not say whether she is able to sit up or stand on her own.

Doctors had previously reported that Giffords was having difficulty moving the right side of her body. On Wednesday, they described that as “weakness” and said her ability to move had improved.

The transport from the intensive care unit earlier in the day was done under heavy police presence.

Helicopters buzzed overhead and police stopped traffic and blocked the road as an ambulance took Giffords and her husband, astronaut Mark Kelly, to the rehab facility. Television footage showed a gurney wheeled into the building.

It was the first time she had been outside intensive care since the shooting, said James Campbell, a TIRR spokesman.

Doctors said Giffords is doing her rehabilitation in her room and not in the hospital’s large gym-like facilities where dozens of patients can undergo therapy simultaneously.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID ITB 11-GOV-042

Renovation of the CNMI Public School System Rota High School Gymnasium

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office, are soliciting sealed bids for the renovation of the CNMI Public School System Rota High School Gymnasium located at the high school site in Songsong Village, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 at the Governor’s CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building on Capitol Hill. A non-refundable payment of Twenty Five Dollars (US \$25.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the CIP Office on Capitol Hill. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A MANDATORY one time site visit, pre-bid meeting will be held at the Rota High School gymnasium on Tuesday, January 25, 2011. Interested companies who do not attend the mandatory pre-bid meeting will be disqualified from the bidding process. Participants are required to meet promptly at the gymnasium entrance at 11:00 a.m. Questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia, CIP Project Manager, CIP Office, Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 664-2408 no later than 4:00 p.m. time, Monday, January 31, 2011.

Sealed bids must be marked “ITB11-GOV-042”. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, Monday, February 14, 2011. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time February 14, 2011, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than February 14, 2011 and must be received no later than February 24, 2011. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, February 28, 2011. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will open at 11:00 a.m. local time, on February 14, 2011.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier’s Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: “Credit Account No. 44660”. Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) Two Hundred Fifty dollars (\$250.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, CNMI Lt. Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

**Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipattamenton I Tano' Pupliku**

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSION FOR PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (a) and (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to recommend the extension of a lease on certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This lease extension is subject to the approval of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature in accordance with the mandate set out in Article XI, § 5(c) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The leased premises is described as public land Lot No. 151 R 01, containing an area of approximately 8,049 square meters, more or less, situated in Sabana, Rota. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- ii. The lessee is Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation d.b.a. IT&E, a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are Ricardo C. Delgado, Jovino G. Lorenzo, Jr., Jose Ricardo PR Delgado, E. Norbert Garrett, Robert R. Anderson, Jose S. Dela Cruz, John Noel Doherty, Keiji Ikemura, and Masao Miyamoto. The President of the Corporation is Jose Ricardo PR Delgado. The Treasurer is Lawrence P. Knecht. The Secretary is Fe D. Vicencio.
- iii. The proposed lease extension was negotiated by Mr. Lawrence P. Knecht.
- iv. The lessee shall continue to use the premises solely for the purpose of maintaining and operating telecommunications transmitters, antennas, and activities related thereto. The term of the lease agreement extension is 15 years.
- v. Copies of the proposed lease extension agreements may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; in Songsong, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public lands in Sabana, Rota.
- vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before February 4, 2011 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NOTISIA POT MAPROPONEN INEKSTENDEN INATKILON TANO' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(a) yan (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku guini ha nā'i notisia ni inteson-ña para u rekomenda i inekstenden inatkilon gi pumalu na tāno' pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Isla Marianas siha. Este na inekstenden atkilon siha manmasuheto para i inapruебan i Lehislaturan Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Isla Marianas gi sigun ni mamānda ni mapega huyong gi Attiklu XI, § 5(c) gi Konstitution i Sangkattan na Isla Marianas siha. Maseha hāyi na petsona siha gi halom i pupbliku henerat siha ha na'hālom i imfotmasion, opion, pat testamōñon kinentra siha gi tinahguen propusito siha ni para i atkilon tāno' pupbliku. Sigi mās mo'nā mapribeniyi ginien i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinhattityi pettanesen imfotmasion ni madimānda ni debi na u mapupblika.

- i. I lugāt atkilon siha madeskribe komu tano' pupbliku Lot No. 151 R 01, kinonsiste ārian kāsi guaha 8,049 square meters, potlumenus mās, ni gaige gi Sabāna Luta. I kopian i pumalu na lugāt gaige na gumuaha gi Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku siha ni para i rikonosimiento.
- ii. I manatikila i Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation d.b.a. IT & E, i CNMI na Korporasion. I Kuetpon i Direktot siha gi Korporasion si Ricardo C. Delgado, Jovino G. Lorenzo, Jr., Jose Ricardo PR Delgado, E. Norbert Garrett, Robert R. Anderson, Jose S. Dela Cruz, John Noel Doherty, Keiji Ikemura, yan si Masao Miyamoto. I Presidenten i Korporasion si Ricardo PR Delgado. I Tresurārio si Lawrence P. Knecht. I Sekritārio si Fe D. Vicencio.
- iii. I mapropone na ekstension atkilon manegosio gi as Siñot Lawrence P. Knecht.
- iv. I manatikila debi na u kontinua umusa i lugāt siha uniku para i rason i maneran maintaining yan operating telecommunications transmitters, antennas yan maseha hāfa na mama'achule' na aktibidāt siha guihu.
- v. Kopian i manmapropone na ekstension atkilon na kontrāta siha siña machule' gi ofisinan i Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku siha, gaige gi segundo bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; Songsong, Luta; pat i primet 1st floor gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. I Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku siha tāya' ha risibi tinahguen propusito siha para suheton atkilon tāno' pupbliku siha gi Sabāna, Luta.
- vii. I Sekritārion i Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku siha debi na u aksepta i tinig'e i imfotmasion, opion yan testamōñon kinentra pat tinahguen propusito siha ginien i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat ántes di Fibreru 4, 2011 gi ofisinan Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku siha ni gaige Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALŪWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falūweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaol éghús faluw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Akkilon yeel nge ebwe mwir sangi alughulughul Sow Ffeerul Allegh mellol Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands iye e alléghewow mellól Article XI, Tálil 5(c) mellól Allégh Lapalap Northern Mariana Islands. Schókkka eyoor máfyieer nge rebwe isisilong aghiyghir, awéhee, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil faluwéer toulap mebwäl Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayora, lamał awewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkateélo.

- i. Pomwol akkilonul faluwéer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No. 151 R 01, ebwe eyoor walangaras ebwughuw faigh me tiwoow (8, 049), elapeló me ngáre éghús, elo Sabana Luuta. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falūweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.
- ii. Schéschéel schóól akkilon nge Micronesian Corporation d.b.a. IT&E CNMI Corporation. Mwiischil assamwool kkaal mellol Corporation nge Richard C. Delgado, Jovino G. Lorenzo, Jr., Jose Ricardo PR Delgado, E. Norbert Garrett, Robert R. Anderson, Jose S. Dela Cruz, John Noel Doherty, Keiji Ikemura, me Masao Miyamoto. Samwool Corporation nge Jose Ricardo PR Delgado. Treasurer nge Lawrence P. Knecht. Sekkeretoria nge Fe D. Vicencio
- iii. Schóól aweweel pomwol akkilon ye e sobwosobw nge Mr Lawrence P. Knecht.
- iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe ammwela bwuley me ayoora Telecommunications transmitters, antennas, me lamal kka eyoor Tool aighúghul pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoo ráagh (25 years)
- v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughu mereel Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falūweer Toulap, elo aruwowa pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building lloq Tutaram, Seipél; aruwowa pwó (2nd floor) mellól Songsong, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúluyół.
- vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falūweer Toulap nge esaál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipel..
- vii. Samwool Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falūweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweýut mmwal Määischigh (February) 4, 2011 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falūweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúluyół.

Color-coded terror warnings to be gone by April 27

WASHINGTON (AP)—By the end of April, terror threats to the U.S. will no longer be described in shades of green, blue, yellow, orange and red, The Associated Press has learned.

The nation's color-coded

terror warning system will be phased out beginning this week, according to government officials familiar with the plan. The officials requested anonymity to speak ahead of an announcement scheduled Thursday by

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano.

The Homeland Security Department and other government agencies have been reviewing the Homeland Security Advisory System's usefulness for more

than a year. One of the most notable changes to come: The public will no longer hear automated recordings at U.S. airports stating that the threat level is orange.

The Obama administration will take the next three months to roll out a replacement, which will be called the National Terrorism Advisory System. The new plan calls for notifying specific audiences about specific threats. In some cases, it might be a one-page threat description sent to law enforcement officials describing the threat, what law enforcement needs to do about it and what the federal government is doing, one of the officials said.

When agency officials think there is a threat the public should know about, they will issue an announcement and rely on news organizations and social media out-



AP In this March 12, 2002 file photo, the color-coded terrorism warning system is shown in Washington.

lets to get the word out.

Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., the chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, said

the old threat system served a valuable purpose in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, but that a more targeted system was needed.

"It sounds to me like the changes they are proposing make sense," King said in a statement. "We will have to wait and see how they implement this new, more targeted system. I expect the biggest challenge for DHS will be balancing the need to provide useful and timely information with the need to protect sensitive information."

The five-tiered, color-coded terror warning system, created after the Sept. 11 attacks, was one of the Bush administration's most visible anti-terrorism programs. Criticized as too vague to be useful in communicating the terror threat to the public, it quickly became the butt of late-night talk show jokes.

Another snowstorm hits East Coast

NEW YORK (AP)—Schools closed, governments sent workers home early and planes were grounded Wednesday in an all-too-familiar routine along the East Coast as another snowstorm swept over a region already beaten down by a winter not even half over.

"I fell three times trying to get off the steps," commuter Elliot Self said after leaving an elevated train in Philadelphia. "I just want the snow to stop. I want the sun again. I want to feel just a little bit of warmth."

Millions of people got that oh-no-not-again feeling as the wet and sloppy storm engulfed the Northeast, where snowbanks in some places were already so high that drivers couldn't see

around corners.

Classes were called off and commutes were snarled from Tennessee to New England as cars and buses slipped and slid on highways. The New York area's airports, among the nation's busiest, saw hundreds of delayed or canceled flights. Pedestrians struggled across icy patches that were on their way to becoming deep drifts.

Kentucky had half a foot of snow by Wednesday morning. Eight to 12 inches of snow was

forecast for New York City, which had already seen 36 inches of snow this season in comparison with the full-winter average of 21 inches. New Jersey and Philadelphia could get up to 8 inches, and high winds are expected before the storm moves out early Thursday.

Rain drenched the nation's capital for most of the day and changed to sleet before it started snowing in earnest at midafternoon. Washington was expected to get up to 10 inches of snow.

ACROSS THE NATION

Medical examiner: Missing Texas teen was strangled

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP)—A 15-year-old girl whose body was found along a roadside in West Texas was strangled soon after her abduction from a motel where she had been babysitting the children of a man accused in her disappearance, authorities said Wednesday. Lubbock County Medical Examiner Sridhar Natarajan declined to elaborate on what was used to strangle Elizabeth Ennen Jan. 4, and would not comment on whether she had been sexually assaulted. Elizabeth had been listed as a runaway until her body was discovered Monday evening near Shallowater, about 10 miles northwest of Lubbock.

No one hurt in a not-quite-miracle on the Hudson

EDGEWATER, N.J. (AP)—A commuter ferry that was among the first to respond to the plane splashdown in the Hudson River two years ago had to be rescued itself Wednesday morning when an engine began emitting dark smoke. There were 25 passengers and two crew members aboard the Moira Smith on the

Hudson between New Jersey and New York City when the smoke appeared Wednesday morning, said officials with ferry operator New York Waterway. An alarm went off and the crew shut down the engine, anchored and called for help, New York Waterway said in a statement. Another ferry responded and accepted some passengers who continued on to Manhattan, and the disabled boat was towed back to the dock.

Ark. fish deaths still a mystery after tests

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—The mystery of what killed tens of thousands of fish that washed up along the Arkansas River late last year can't be solved, state wildlife officials announced Wednesday, but they do have a theory about what caused birds to fall out of the sky in a small Arkansas town on New Year's Eve. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission issued separate news releases on the Dec. 29 fish kill and the New Year's Eve event in which red-winged blackbirds began raining down, evoking images of the apocalypse. The agency issued the releases after autopsies and multiple tests were conducted on the fish and birds.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Coastal Resources Management

Caller Box 10007, Springs Plaza, Middle Road, Saipan, MP 96950
Website: www.crm.gov.mp
Tel. (670) 664-8300 • Fax (670) 664-8315



NOTICE OF APPLICATION January 26, 2011

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. MY CARE	01/04/11 SSm-2011-X-001	FILMING	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(01/06/2011)*
2. DTC SAIPAN	01/06/11 SSm-2011-X-002	FILMING	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(01/06/2011)*
3. COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORP.	01/04/2011 SMS-92-X-50(A)	GENERATOR ROOM	AGINGAN	MAJOR SITING	APPROVED(01/11/2011)*
4. SAIPAN TV PRODUCTION	01/10/2011 SSm-2011-X-003	FILMING	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(01/10/2011)*
5. SAIPAN CREWBOATS, INC.	01/11/2011 SLRm-2011-X-004	IN-WATER VESSEL MAINTENANCE	PORT OF SAIPAN	LAGOON & REEF APC	APPROVED(01/12/2011)*
6. WINDSURFING SAIPAN, INC.	01/18/2011 SS/LRm-2011-X-005	WINDSURFING COMPETITION	SAIPAN LAGOON MICRO BEACH	SHORELINE AND LAGOON & REEF APC	UNDER REVIEW*
7. SAIPAN TV PRODUCTION	01/25/2011 SSm-2011-X-006	FILMING	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(01/25/2011)*

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

Asia

PH looking for 2 suspected bus bombers

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police were searching Wednesday for two men they suspect remotely detonated a bus bomb that killed 5 passengers and were investigating whether the explosive pointed to the involvement of al-Qaida-linked militants.

Metropolitan Manila police chief Nicanor Bartolome said investigators had recovered fragments of an 81 mm mortar round and a Nokia cell phone used in Tuesday's bombing that wounded 13 other people in Makati city, the capital's financial district.

The bombing could deal a blow to President Benigno Aquino III's effort to project an image of stability after coming to power seven months ago and attract foreign investors to fund an ambitious package of infrastructure projects he unveiled recently. It was also a reminder of the complex security problems in a country grappling with long-running Muslim and communist rebellions as well as

rampant criminal gangs.

Aquino has directed his national security adviser to reassess threats that reportedly came from terrorist groups last year and that prompted several countries, including Australia, Britain and the U.S., to put in place travel warnings. At the time, the government had not found the threats credible.

No suspects have been named, but authorities have suggested the possible in-

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(NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE)

vovement of Muslim militant groups, including the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf, which was blamed for a 2005 bus bombing that killed four a block

away from the site of Tuesday's blast. A year earlier, the Abu Sayyaf was blamed for the country's worst terrorist bombing that killed 116 people in a

burning ferry in Manila Bay.

The Supreme Court said Wednesday it upheld the convictions of an Indonesian and two Filipino militants blamed for the deadly 2005 bus bombing, sentencing them to life in prison.

Police are comparing the

bomb components from Tuesday's blast to those from past attacks. They were also hunting two potential suspects.

Surviving passengers and the bus conductor have told investigators that two men got off the bus minutes before the explosion.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Strong quake hits western Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A strong earthquake has hit waters off western Indonesia, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage. The U.S. Geological Survey said Wednesday night's quake had a preliminary magnitude of 6.1.

It struck off Simeulue, an island Sumatra's western coast, at a depth of 17 miles (27 kilometers). Indonesia is located on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines encircling the Pacific Basin.

India prevents defiant flag-raising in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Thousands of police in Indian-controlled Kashmir prevented a Hindu nationalist party and a separatist group from raising flags for their opposing causes in a central square Wednesday to mark India's Republic Day. Leaders of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party had

planned to hoist the Indian flag in Lal Chowk, a Srinagar square that is a frequent site of anti-India protests. In reaction, the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front, a legal separatist group, said it would raise its party flag in the square. However, a swarm of armed police sealed off the square, allowing no one in.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

ENFORCEMENT SECTION AND ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICE
Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995



PUBLIC NOTICE FOR HEARING FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2011 - FIRST NOTICE FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2011 - SECOND NOTICE

The Employee and Employer is hereby notified to report to the Department of Labor, Administrative Hearing Office, 2nd Floor, Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, Saipan for a hearing to address the matter of the complaint. This notice will serve as a "Proof of Service of this Notice of Hearing". For information, please call 236-0900 ext. 314.

Case Number	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
LC # 10-1108	Aguda, Emelinda B.	Celes, Cecilia & Alfred A.	Mar. 1, 2011	9:00 A.M.
CAC # 10-467-09	Espirito, Crispin	Concepcion, Mariana R.	Feb. 3, 2011	1:00 P.M.
CAC # 10-439-08	Alday, Vanessa	Dottie Ent. Inc. dba Godfather's Bar	Feb. 3, 2011	1:00 P.M.
CAC # 10-469-09	Park, Dong Sik	Jesson Presbyterian Church Inc.	Feb. 3, 2011	9:00 A.M.
CAC # 10-490-12	Roque, Jojit	Marianas Fast Food, Inc.	Feb. 3, 2011	1:00 P.M.
CAC # 10-476-10	Azarcon, Eutemio Jr.	Ogumoro, Ambrosio T.	Feb. 3, 2011	9:00 A.M.
CAC # 10-476-10	Bermiso, Rolly	Ogumoro, Ambrosio T.	Feb. 3, 2011	9:00 A.M.
CAC # 10-469-09	Kye, Sukyung	Park, Dong Sik	Feb. 3, 2011	9:00 A.M.
CAC # 10-447-08	Jeongeun, Park	Shakir's (CNMI) Inc.	Feb. 3, 2011	9:00 A.M.
CAC # 10-447-08	Tualla, Antonio	Shakir's (CNMI) Inc.	Feb. 3, 2011	9:00 A.M.
CAC # 10-491-12	Yu, Guiqin	Sterling Corporation	Feb. 3, 2011	1:00 P.M.
CAC # 10-470-09	Romero, Sandra	Takagi & Associates, Inc.	Feb. 3, 2011	9:00 A.M.
CAC # 10-451-08-UP	Song, Linlin a. k. a.	Aguon, Linlin Song	Feb. 3, 2011	1:00 P.M.

Failure to appear on the scheduled date may result in an Administrative Order being entered against you.
Dated this 12th day of January 2011.

/s/ Jeffrey T. Camacho
Enforcement OIC

NOTICE OF HEARINGS PENDING 2010 DENIAL APPEALS FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2011 - FIRST NOTICE FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2011 - SECOND NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to appear at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, on the date and at the time listed below. Please bring any documentation necessary to resolve the issues that led to the denial of your permit application. If you fail to appear or fail to bring required documentation, the appeal may be dismissed and an administrative order may be entered against you. Any employee who intends to request permission to transfer to a new employer must appear at the hearing to make that request; failure to appear may result in immediate denial of transfer relief.

Denial Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
10-086	Yang, Wenfu (EE)	Ador Development Corp. (ER)	Feb. 10, 2011	9:00 A.M.
10-155	Wu, Yonging (EE)	Crystal Star Corporation (ER)	Feb. 10, 2011	9:00 A.M.
10-041	Bernal, Vilma F. (EE)	Food Merchant Int'l (Spn) (ER)	Feb. 10, 2011	9:00 A.M.
10-010	Ibay, Gaudiosa R. (EE)	Gem's Corporation (ER)	Feb. 10, 2011	9:00 A.M.
10-303	Joson, Josh David (Dpn)	Joson, Reynaldo (Spn)	Feb. 10, 2011	9:00 A.M.
10-037	Eto, Miyuki (EE)	My Care Corporation (ER)	Feb. 10, 2011	9:00 A.M.
10-094	Wang, Liping (EE)	New Seoul, Inc. (ER)	Feb. 10, 2011	9:00 A.M.
10-069	Dizon, Robert P. (EE)	Pacific Inc. (ER)	Feb. 10, 2011	1:00 P.M.
10-067	Hagos, Jaime L. (EE)	Pacific Inc. (ER)	Feb. 10, 2011	1:00 P.M.
10-068	Hong, Sung Sik (EE)	Pacific Inc. (ER)	Feb. 10, 2011	1:00 P.M.
10-123	Javinar, Dionisio G. (EE)	Palacios, Mr./Mrs. Eleuterio A. (ER)	Feb. 10, 2011	1:00 P.M.
10-036	Esconde, Ramonito O. (EE)	Piteg, Lucia A. (ER)	Feb. 10, 2011	1:00 P.M.
10-292	Gao, Jing Jing (EE)	Rui Jin Trading Corporation (ER)	Feb. 10, 2011	1:00 P.M.
10-099	Zhou, Qin (EE)	Zhen Rui Brother Corp. (ER)	Feb. 10, 2011	1:00 P.M.
10-264	Sasidharan, Pottyath (EE)	Correction of Name	Feb. 10, 2011	1:00 P.M.
	Change of Name			

PUBLIC NOTICE

Due to expected high occupancy levels on Sunday, January 30, 2011, Waterpark Passes & Waterpark/Brunch Promo Passes will be unavailable for sale and complimentary gift certificates will not be honored on that day. We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your cooperation. Normal Waterpark Pass sales will resume on Monday, January 31, 2011.

PIC Management

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Petitioner
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of : CIVIL ACTION
Estate of : NO. 11-0012 A
GLENN ANTHONY :
REYES MERCADO :
Deceased. :

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Catherine Irma Scallamera Mercado has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Glenn Anthony Reyes Mercado, deceased; and that the said petition will be heard by the Court on Tuesday, March 1, 2011, at the hour of 1:30 pm.

Notice is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the estate of Glenn Anthony Reyes Mercado, deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said estate, that they should file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the first publication of this notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 5222, Saipan MP 96950, attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

Dated this 25th of January, 2011.

/s/Clerk

Casmiro and Sachary Igisaia
P.O. Box 501956 CK
Saipan, Mp 96950
Telephone No.: 256-1962

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER
TO APPOINT
GUARDIANSHIP:

FCD GU
CIVIL
ACTION
NO. 11-0039

REHANNA MAE
AMAYA I. JOHN
Minor Children

by

CASMIRO S. IGISAIA
and SACHARY T.
IGISAIA
Petitioners.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition to Appoint a Legal Guardian for the above-named minor children by Casmiro and Sachary Igisaia, Petitioners, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, on 24th day of February, 2011 at 10:30 am or as soon as thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/Deputy Clerk of Court

World

Egypt's protests enter 2nd day, ominous for regime

CAIRO (AP)—Thousands of Egyptians vented their rage against President Hosni Mubarak's autocratic government in a second day of protests Wednesday that defied a ban on public gatherings. Baton-wielding police responded with tear gas and beatings in a crackdown that showed zero tolerance for dissent.

Egypt's largest anti-govern-

Hosni Mubarak

President of Egypt



Early life

Born 1928 in Al-Minufiyah governorate, Egypt

Education Graduated from Egyptian Military Academy, 1949; from Air Force Academy, 1950

Family Married, two sons

Career

1967-1972 Director of Egyptian Air Force Academy

1972-1975 Commander of Egyptian Air Force

1975-1981 Vice president under President Anwar Sadat

1981 Became president following Sadat's assassination

1993, 1996, 1999 Re-elected in single-candidate elections

1995 Survived assassination attempt in Ethiopia, one of at least six attempts on his life

2005 Re-elected for a fifth term in first multiparty election

2010 Candidacy for 2011 presidential election announced

2011 Protests in Cairo demand the departure of Mubarak after 30 years in power

Source: Encyclopedia Britannica, BBC, MCT Photo Service, AP
© 2011 MCT

ment protests in years echoed the uprising in Tunisia, threatening to destabilize the leadership of the most important U.S. ally in the Arab world. The ability of the protesters to sustain the momentum for two days in the face of such a heavy-handed police response was a rare feat in this country.

One protester and a policeman were killed Wednesday, bringing the two-day death toll to six. Some 860 people have been rounded up, and Facebook, Twitter and cell phones—key to organizing protests—have been disrupted.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called on Egypt to adopt broad reforms and not crack down on the anti-government crowds. She urged the Mubarak regime to "take this opportunity to implement political, economic and social reforms that will answer the legitimate interests of the Egyptian people."

Still, there was no indication that Mubarak, who has ruled with an iron fist for nearly 30 years, intends to relinquish power or make democratic or economic concessions, and no sign he would rein in his secu-

rity forces.

The defiant demonstrations continued late into the night. In Cairo, dozens of riot police with helmets and shields charged more than 2,000 marchers on a downtown boulevard along the Nile. Smaller clashes broke out across the capital. In one, protesters stoned police, who responded with a volley of tear gas from a bridge over the Nile.

One protester, businessman Said Abdel-Motalib, called the civil unrest "a red light to the regime. This is a warning."

In cities across Egypt, pro-

testers incensed by Egypt's grinding poverty, rising prices and high unemployment hurled rocks and firebombs at police and smashed the windows of military vehicles.

The Interior Ministry warned Wednesday that police would not tolerate any gatherings, and thousands of security forces were out on the streets poised to move quickly against any unrest. Many were plainclothes officers whose leather jackets and casual sweat shirts allowed them to blend in easily with protesters.

Thousands of policemen in riot gear and backed by armored vehicles also took up posts in Cairo, on bridges across the Nile, at major intersections and

squares, as well as outside key installations, including the state TV building and the headquarters of Mubarak's ruling National Democratic Party.

Police fired tear gas to disperse a crowd of several hundred activists on a main thoroughfare, chasing them through side streets as both sides pelted each other with rocks while hundreds of onlookers watched. Plainclothes officers shoved some into waiting vans, slapping them in the face.

Observing the clashes, Omima Maher, a 37-year-old housewife lamented her money woes. "Everything is so horrible. I hope we can change it," she said.

WORLD BRIEFS

21 workers killed in Colombian mine blast

SARDINATA, Colombia (AP)—An explosion likely caused by a methane gas buildup ripped through an underground coal mine in Colombia during a shift change Wednesday, killing 21 workers, officials said. A similar fatal blast occurred at the same mine four years ago. Five of the victims died at the mine's entrance and by afternoon two bodies had been removed from the mine with another 14 left to recover, said the provincial Colombian Red Cross director, Johel Enrique Rodriguez. He told The Associated Press that rescuers had seen the rest of

the bodies, which he said were covered in burns and scattered throughout the kilometer-long (0.6 mile-long) tunnel that extended horizontally beneath a verdant mountain.

Tunisia issues int'l warrant for ousted president

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)—Tunisia's government issued an international arrest warrant Wednesday for ousted President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and six relatives, accusing him of taking money out of the North African nation illegally. Ben Ali, who fled to Saudi Arabia after being driven from power this month by violent protests, was also being charged with illegally acquiring real estate and other assets abroad, Justice Minister Lazhar Karoui Chebbi said. Interpol said its Tunis bureau issued a global alert seeking the arrest of Ben Ali and six family members, without specifying who. Chebbi said Ben Ali's wife, Leila, was among those wanted by Tunisian authorities.

Haiti ruling party says candidate out of race

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Haiti's ruling party announced Wednesday that President Rene Preval's chosen successor is withdrawing from the disputed race for president under pressure from the U.S., the Organization of American States and local protests. But it was not immediately clear if the Unity party's statement was enough to end the candidacy of government construction official Jude Celestin, who had been heading to a runoff vote against former first lady Mirlande Manigat. Rival candidates and some foreign governments have questioned the results of the first round of voting that put in Celestin in second place.

In Loving Memory SANTIAGO MIYASAKI BABAUTA

Born on July 25, 1925 and called to eternal rest on January 23, 2011



Predeceased by:

Wife:

Parents:

Maternal Grandparents:

Paternal Grandparents:

Predeceased/Survived by:

Brothers, Sisters & In-Laws:

†Carmen Nekai Babauta
†Juan Cruz & †Maria Manibusan-Miyasaki Babauta
†Nicolasa Camacho Manibusan & †Jose Miyasaki & †Manuel Aldan
†Soledad Duenas Cruz & †Felix Taitague Babauta

Survived by:
Second Wife:
CHILDREN & SPOUSES:
Nobuko T. Babauta
Victoria B. & †Francisco Dlg. Camacho & Children, **Margarita B.** Camacho & Children, **Juan N.** & Charlene T. Babauta & Children, **Ana B.** & Tito Bansil & Children, **Felipe N.** & Aurelia Babauta & Children, **Luis N. Babauta** & Alice Jesus & Children, **Janet B.** & Benny Pereda & Children, **Cecilia B.** & William Benavente & Children, **James N. Babauta** & Laura Bucknell

He is also survived by numerous aunties, uncles, nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great grandchildren.



Daily Mass of Intention is being celebrated each evening at 6:00pm at San Roque Church followed by the recitation of the Holy Rosary. Funeral Services will be held on Monday, January 31, 2011. His remains will be at Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:00am and will be taken to San Roque Church at 7:30am. Reponsorial Service will be at 8:00am followed by Holy Rosary at 8:30am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am. Interment Service will take place at the CNMI Veteran's Cemetery, Marpi, Saipan.

Please join us in prayers.
Dangkulo Na Si Yu's Ma'ase
Thank You.

GINEN I FAMAGUON SIHA YAN I FAMILIA

Off the Wall

Ain't it grand: Piano in bay has Miami Beach abuzz

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP)—There's a new set of Florida keys—a grand piano that has mysteriously appeared on a sandbar in Biscayne Bay.

Locals from nearby South Beach have speculated about music videos or a romantic date. A filmmaker has claimed credit for hauling it to the sandbar on a barge, saying it was meant to portray the death of art. But he offered no proof.

The rumors have started buzzing in this laid-back stretch of coast, just north of the glitz clubs and restaurants where such a piano might be more appropriate.

Karla Murray was so intrigued that she woke up Wednesday and swam about 200 yards out to the sandbar, saying she couldn't pass up the "thrill of the hunt."

When she got there, she found that the piano was damaged and charred, as if someone had set it on fire, she said. There were no engraved messages or clues.

"I wanted to see it firsthand," said Murray, a 42-year-old professional photographer who wanted to shoot the piano up close.

Nearby, rumors swirled at the Water's Edge Cafe, where owner Derek Tolmie says talk of the piano has been as popular as his crab cakes and cosmopolitans. Some said they noticed helicop-



AP Freelance photographer Karla Murray of New York photographs a grand piano that recently appeared on a sandbar in Biscayne Bay, Miami, Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2011.

ters and film crews taping a famous singer.

But Tolmie dismissed the talk. "It looked like somebody was playing the piano and someone was filming from a small boat," said Tolmie, who noticed the instrument two or three weeks ago. "No helicopters. That's a rumor."

Curious bloggers took to the

Internet with their conjecture. Suzanne Beard's photo of the piano, accompanied by a cluster of pelicans, was picked up by the National Geographic earlier this month.

Beard said she was on her boat one Sunday when she noticed the piano.

Independent moviemaker

publicly.

Since then, Gena has been refusing food and acting listless. He also won't play with three fellow African crocodiles, despite being the leader in the group.

"His behavior has changed," Alexandra said. "He moves very little and swims much less than he used to."

Doctors tried to whet the crocodile's appetite this week by feeding him live quail rather than the pork or beef he usually gets once a week. The quail were injected with vitamins and a laxative, but while Gena smothered one bird, he didn't eat it.

phone after Rimma Golovko dropped it in the water. She had stretched out her arm, trying to snap a photo of Gena opening his mouth, when the phone slipped.

"This should have been a very dramatic shot, but things didn't work out," she said.

Employees were skeptical when Golovko told them what happened. "But then the phone started ringing and the sound was coming from inside our Gena's stomach and we understood she wasn't lying," said Alexandra, an employee who declined to give her last name as she wasn't authorized to speak

publicly.

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The accident in the eastern city of Dnipropetrovsk sounds a bit like "Peter Pan," in which a crocodile happily went "tick-tock" after gulping down an alarm clock.

But Gena, the 14-year-old croc who swallowed the phone, has hardly been living a fairy tale: He hasn't eaten or had a bowel movement in four weeks and appears depressed and in pain.

Gena noshed on the Nokia

No app for this: Croc gulps phone, starts ringing

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Workers at a Ukrainian aquarium didn't believe it when a visitor said a crocodile swallowed her phone. Then the reptile started ringing.

The accident in the eastern city of Dnipropetrovsk sounds a bit like "Peter Pan," in which a crocodile happily went "tick-tock" after gulping down an alarm clock.

But Gena, the 14-year-old croc who swallowed the phone, has hardly been living a fairy tale: He hasn't eaten or had a bowel movement in four weeks and appears depressed and in pain.

Gena noshed on the Nokia

5-foot Monitor lizard wanders Calif. neighborhood

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP)—Animal services officers often get calls reporting "huge," monstrous reptiles, only to arrive and find an itty-bitty garden snake.

The 5-foot Monitor lizard wandering around a condo complex in the city of Riverside was way bigger than animal control officer Jenny Selter could have imagined.

"She said she saw it and almost jumped back in her truck," said John Welsh, spokesman for Riverside County Animal Services. "The residents were freaking out because here's the Godzilla-like creature walking down the sidewalk."

Selter managed to get a catch pole—a long pole with a loop at the end that's used to handle vicious dogs—around the animal's neck, Welsh said. It was docile at first, but then it started hissing.

A police officer grabbed the lizard's body while Selter held onto its sharp, lashing tail, and together they put it in a compartment of her truck that's usually used for large dogs.

Black-throated Monitor lizards are carnivorous, legal to own in California and native to the African grasslands and parts of Asia. Juveniles go for about \$100 in pet stores, but they grow.

Back at the shelter, staff found the reptile was well-behaved for a Monitor lizard.

"The last one we had was nasty. But this one doesn't hiss and we were able to walk it around. It was investigating and didn't snap at anyone," Welsh said. "We suspect that it's been someone's pet for a long time, because it's so big. I think they might let it wander around the house. Maybe it sleeps on a bean bag?"

Welsh thinks the scaly pet might have escaped its cage or gotten loose while its owner was away, and he hoped its owner comes to claim it soon.

Billy Yeager called The Associated Press to claim credit, saying he and his wife hauled it there while shooting a film, "Jesus of Malibu." He said they've left five pianos around the world, in Guatemala, Costa Rica and two in California, in Malibu and Death Valley, as an artistic protest.

He said they sold their possessions to embark on a film career to encourage others to live free of consumerism, pop culture and the media.

A friend told him about the media frenzy over the piano, Yeager said, so he decided to come forward and issued a statement saying: "Listen to the piano, a piano for Miami, the

wasteland of the world."

Yeager's website shows photos of upright pianos and a keyboard on a beach, but nothing resembling the hulking grand on the sandbar in Biscayne Bay. He said they painstakingly pulled the piano on a homemade barge behind a boat at night and are planning to take a photo of it during a sunrise on the bay.

It's not clear what will become of the piano. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission spokesman Jorge Pino said the agency is not responsible for moving such items and the U.S. Coast Guard won't get involved unless it becomes a hazard to navigation.

Alan Klopman, a writer

whose home office has a picturesque view of the sweeping bay and the spit of sand, has been tracking the piano's progress.

"I've been trying to figure it out. I've taken probably over 200 photos of it," Klopman said. "There was a bench with it initially."

One of his neighbors, Marlene Guyton, also has been keeping an eye on it—through her binoculars.

Francisco Casiano, 62, walks daily to the peaceful bay from his home.

"Who would dream of someone playing in the middle of the bay like that? It's very unusual," Casiano said. "I guess you'd have a nice view."

Death & Funeral Announcement

**NADINE JANELLE
“LEISIFISCHIMAL”
TAITANO LIZAMA**

Born to life on September 08, 1982 and was called to her eternal rest on January 21, 2011

Daily Mass is being offered at St. Jude Church in Koblerville at 6:00 pm and Holy Rosary is being said nightly at the residence of Jose A. Jr. & Rosa T. Lizama in Koblerville at 7:00 pm.

In Her New Life, She Now Joins Her:

Maternal Grandmother: †Maria M. Taitano
Maternal Grandfather: †Dionicio Malus
Uncles: †Enock T. Kapileo, †Daniel W. Iginoef, †Martin T. Ada, †Gerald Kapileo
Aunt: †Ana T. Ada
Godmother: †Joanne T. Taro
Brothers & Sisters In-Law: †Lalani DLS. Lizama, †Raymon D. Delos Santos, †Paul Celis, †Madaline Delos Santos

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Parents: Jose A. Jr./Rosa T. Lizama
Paternal Grandparents: Jose SN./Maria A. Lizama
Maternal Grandparents: Simon I./Christine Kapileo
Common Law Husband: Jerome C. Delos Santos
Children: Rikko Jedd, Rocco Je
Father/Mother-In-Law: Joaquin P./Maria C. Delos Santos
Brothers/Sisters: Alfreda T. Odoshi (Terrence Jamahl, Athan Simeon, Jodine Rose, Micheal Joel)
Nadia L./Elias Q. Saralu (Nokki Jim, Raymond Alexander, Preston Joel, Rosie Jean, Abraham Jay)
Darcey Lizama/Myra Williams (Jose Valerio, Darcel Elise)
Dane Lizama/Sharon Sablan (Dion Shane, Daesha Juella, Dean Mario, Dilan Peter)
Congressman Ramon A. Tebuteb (Messalina Melva B. Concepcion (Vicente)

Godparents:

She will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces & nephews.

On Friday, January 28, 2011 her remains will leave CHC at 3:00 pm and will be escorted to the residence of Jose A. Jr. & Rosa T. Lizama in Koblerville for viewing. Rosary will be said at 7:00 pm followed by Responso service at 7:45 pm. Final Rosary will be said at 11:30 pm.

On Saturday, January 29, 2011 her remains will leave the residence in Koblerville at 9:30am and will be escorted to Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am, followed immediately by interment service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Si Yu'us Ma'a se, Olomwaay, and Thank You

**Jose A. Jr. & Rosa T. Lizama (Aguas/Pinalik-Tako)
Jerome C. Delos Santos (Rikko Jedd and Rocco Je)
and Family**

Science & Technology

HDShredder wipes your hard drive clean

By NOAH MATTHEWS
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

A time will come when you want to delete everything on your hard drive. It might be when you sell your computer, dump your pitifully meager 500-gigabyte drive or choose to delete the drive's contents and start over. There is no shortage of hard-drive shredder programs, but if you're looking for a bargain, HDShredder, a free program for Windows PCs, will wipe out your hard drive—including USB thumb drives—so that even disk-recovery software can't bring back its data.

The free version is somewhat limited. Unlike the paid versions, which start at about \$20, the free version will shred only complete drives. The several commercial versions, which range all the way up to \$300, can shred partitions, do their job faster, and offer a higher level of security. That security makes it nearly impossible for even the sharpest hacker to bring back your data. Ordinarily, deleting a file doesn't mean it's gone until another file overwrites it. HDShredder overwrites the entire hard drive.

In the paid versions, you can choose the number of passes on the drive you want to erase. The more passes over the

face of the drive, the harder it will be for anyone to bring back the drive's data. Tread carefully. If you haven't backed up your crucial documents, photos and other data, including the spreadsheet your boss wants on his desk at 8 a.m. Monday, do so before you run HDShredder. And for heaven's sake, check your backup to see if your files are all there.

The program also helps you create a boot disk so you can check to see whether your hard drive truly has been shredded (not literally). And the paid versions have a stunning array of security options, including one that allows you to create the level of secu-

rity you're aiming for—but only if you know what you're doing.

So, if you are looking for a free program to wipe your hard drive clean once in awhile, HDShredder is adequate. But if you are looking for added security and heavy-duty shredding, I'd suggest one of the paid versions. The free version can be downloaded at www.hdshredder.com, where you'll also be able to compare the paid versions.

Other educational, business and utility programs can be found at Matthews' website: www.washingtoncd.net. E-mail: washcd@washingtoncd.net.

Q&A: Erase hard-drive data for good

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)



QUESTION: In a recent column, you wrote about cleaning off a hard drive with an "erase" program before getting rid of the computer. But I've been told that none of those programs really cleans up the hard drive, and that the only real way to get rid of your data is to destroy the hard drive. While I find that too aggressive, I'm also very nervous about someone getting my personal information. Any more suggestions?—Pam Ingemann, Tucson, Ariz.

ANSWER: In theory, there are flaws in older erase programs that use Department of Defense technology to overwrite existing data. Here are some alternatives:

- You could buy a "degausser" to demagnetize your hard disk, but they cost thousands of dollars (see <http://tinyurl.com/6bn7c4h>)
- You could find a PC recycling firm in your area that will shred your hard drive.

- You could destroy it yourself, but that poses problems. If you drill a hole in the drive, that leaves the rest of the data intact. If you smash the drive with a hammer, only some data might be damaged. If you burn the drive, you might only release noxious chemicals without ever knowing if you had eradicated the data.

- The best solution may be to try a University of California erase program that uses a newer approach to disk cleaning that's called "secure erase." Find the free download at <http://tinyurl.com/2xoqqw>.

■ ■ ■

Q: My four computers all get redirected when we use them for Google Internet searches. First the search takes me to a Google page with lots of items, but when I click an item I'm redirected to an alternate website. When I close the redirected website and click my original item, I'm then taken to the correct site. I know this is caused by malicious software, but my Norton security software and the Malwarebytes program you recommend can't find anything. Could this be caused by my new wireless printer?—David Hayes, Ottawa, Ontario

A: Your printer's not to blame. Your PCs have been infected with what's commonly called the "Google redirect virus." Symantec, the company that sells Norton security software, says it's really a Trojan horse, a malicious program that masquerades as a useful one. The Trojan, which Symantec calls "Backdoor.Tidserv," displays unwanted ads, redirects your browser from legitimate search results to potentially malicious Web pages, and keeps the PC vulnerable to other harmful downloads. You can find Symantec's explanation and a free removal tool for the Trojan at <http://www.tinyurl.com/ksmcd>. Click on "Download Removal Tool."

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. E-mail: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Lawyers have facts at fingertips with app that displays evidence

By BRIDGET CAREY
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

MIAMI—With a few finger swipes, attorneys can cut out costly courtroom presentation consultants and show digital evidence themselves with a new iPad application created by a Miami joint venture.

Called TrialPad, the \$89.99 app lets lawyers use their iPad to present PDF files and make changes on the fly, whether highlighting lines in a medical record for a jury or zooming in and circling part of an X-ray photo.

The one-time app price is vastly less than the typical cost of hiring a tech consultant at about \$100-\$150 an hour to manage the choreography of electronic evidence before and during a trial.

The app was created by one such tech consulting firm, Saurian Litigation Support, which partnered with accounting consulting firm Kaufman, Rossin & Co. to create the app under the company name Lit Software.

Ian O'Flaherty, CEO of Saurian and developer of the app, said to hire his firm to make a presentation is "very expensive," and a majority of the presentations only need basic tools like zooming, highlighting, blacking out and drawing, which his app does.

He wouldn't reveal the investment cost to program it, other than it was "six figures."



At a Dade County courtroom, Blain Heckaman, left, and Ian O'Flaherty, display their TrialPad application, January 18, 2011. The \$89.99 app for lawyers to use in trial to present digital evidence, instead of hiring a tech consultant by the hour to show evidence.

The only objection: It's simple software, and not ideal for handling a complicated case with a heavy load of digital evidence. And an attorney would

still need to hook it up to a projector if the courtroom isn't already equipped.

Those limitations spell job security for litigation consultants, said

O'Flaherty, who has worked as a litigation consultant for the past 10 years.

"TrialPad is never going to replace a professional," O'Flaherty said. "This is meant for smaller trials and hearings."

Though it has only been in the iTunes store for a few weeks, TrialPad is already among the top-grossing iPad business apps.

There are three other lawyer-specific apps that rank in the top 100: iJuror (\$9.99), JuryTracker (\$9.99) and Jury Duty (\$39.99), all tools for organizing whom to pick for a jury.

Coral Gables, Fla., attorney Marc P. Ganz of law firm McGrane Nosich & Ganz recently used the TrialPad app to strengthen a deposition by zooming in and circling areas of an X-ray during expert testimony.

"It's something I would never do before," Ganz said. He said he sees himself using it more for preparing questions and researching during a trial, and would still hire a professional to manage presentations for most cases.

"For me to use it in a trial, it would have to be a real small trial that doesn't take a lot of documents to deal with," Ganz said.

Ganz is a part of a growing number of attorneys who are ditching heavy binders and laptops for lighter tablets like an iPad for quick document searches and note-taking—a segment that TrialPad makers are banking will make the app a success.

TECH BYTES

New York Times to publish e-book on WikiLeaks

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Times is experimenting with another source of revenue: digital books. The newspaper said Wednesday it will publish its first e-book on Monday. "Open Secrets: WikiLeaks, War and American Diplomacy" will chronicle the story of last year's WikiLeaks saga, in which the anti-secrecy group released U.S. State Department cables and other sensitive documents. The Times was among five publications that reviewed the material with WikiLeaks before their release. The Times' new e-book will sell for \$5.99 through Amazon.com Inc., Barnes & Noble Inc., Google Inc.'s eBook store and Apple Inc.'s iBookstore. The Times, owned by The New York Times Co., has been looking to grow revenue in digital businesses to offset declines in print advertising. It will soon charge readers who go over a certain monthly limit of free articles at its website.

Google lets users move numbers to Voice

NEW YORK (AP)—Google's Voice calling application is adding a long-promised feature: the ability to move a phone number from a cell phone

to Google's service. Previously, Google Voice assigned each user a new number. That made it more difficult to take advantage of its features, which include cheaper international calls and the ability to answer calls on several different phones and computers. Google Inc. announced Tuesday that users can request "porting" of existing numbers to Google Voice. The transfer costs \$20. Service would be terminated for the cell phone the number comes from, unless the user requests a new number for the line from the phone company. A leading competitor, Skype SA and its Internet calling service, does not offer number porting.

Facebook to let advertisers republish user posts

NEW YORK (AP)—Facebook users who check in to a store or click the "like" button for a brand may soon find those actions retransmitted on their friends' pages as a "Sponsored Story" paid for by advertisers. Currently there is no way for users to decline this feature. Facebook says this lets advertisers promote word-of-mouth recommendations that people already made on the site. They play up things people do on the site that might get lost in the mass of links, photos, status updates and other content users share on the

world's largest social network. The new, promoted posts would keep the same privacy setting that the original posting had. So if you limit your check-ins to a specific group of friends, only these same friends would see the "Sponsored Story" version later.

Google to hire more than 6,200 workers this year

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google Inc. plans to hire more than 6,200 workers this year—boosting its work force by at least a quarter—in the biggest expansion yet by the Internet's most profitable company. The hiring spree comes as President Barack Obama emphasized the need for more jobs during his State of the Union address Tuesday night. Google CEO Eric Schmidt was among a group of business leaders who met with Obama last month to discuss ways to bolster the economy. The company outlined its hiring plans Tuesday with The Associated Press without providing many specifics beyond its pledge to hire more people than it did in 2007, when it added 6,131 workers. Google hired nearly 4,600 people last year to end 2010 with 24,400 employees. Google's commitment to increase its work force by at least 25 percent this year means Google's payroll may grow faster than its revenue.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. E-mail: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Life & Style

Jimmy Buffett falls off stage at Australia concert



SYDNEY (AP)—U.S. singer Jimmy Buffett left hospital on Thursday, a day after he fell off a stage at the end of a Sydney concert and was knocked unconscious, Australian television reported.

Buffett departed St. Vincent's Hospital in inner Sydney via a back entrance to avoid the media after doctors gave him the all-clear on Thursday morning, Ten Network television reported.

Medical staff said the singer had suffered a head injury, but added he was in good spirits

In this July 11, 2010 file photo, Jimmy Buffett performs in Gulf Shores, Ala.

AP

and lucky to have recovered so quickly from the fall at Hordern Pavilion on Wednesday night.

Witnesses attending his show described hearing a "crack" as Buffett's head hit the floor following an encore performance of his song "Lovely Cruise."

"He really took a very nasty tumble," the hospital's emergency department director Gordian Fulde, who attended the concert, told Seven Network television.

"He just didn't see the drop in front of the stage," Fulde said.

"I heard the 'crack' and I thought: 'This guy has broken his neck,'" he added.

Fulde, who is also a surgeon,

rushed to the aid of the 64-year-old entertainer.

"He had a head injury and he lost consciousness ... (but) scans show that he's OK," Fulde told Seven Network.

Buffett lay on the floor in front of the first row of seating waiting for paramedics and an ambulance to arrive, and he was rushed to hospital half an hour later.

The Margaritaville singer had performed on Sunday and Monday to sold-out crowds at Sydney's Opera House, and the Wednesday concert was tacked on in response to demand.

"We've had an unfortunate incident, but the show's over

so if you could move along that would be very, very cool, thank you," the audience was told after the accident.

A message posted on Buffett's website said he was doing well.

"As you probably already know, Jimmy had an accident while performing in Sydney last night and was taken to the hospital," the statement said.

"The doctors say he is doing well ... More info as we get it, and thank you for all of your well-wishes!"

Buffett and the Coral Reefer Band had not performed in Australia for 20 years, The Daily Telegraph said, and had promised to return in 2012.

Letters reveal human side of JD Salinger

LONDON (AP)—He had a reputation as a literary recluse, but a trove of previously unseen letters written by J.D. Salinger to a British friend reveals a sociable man who took bus trips to Niagara Falls, ate fast-food hamburgers, enjoyed watching tennis and claimed always to be writing new work.

The 50 letters and four postcards have been donated to a British university, which made them public Thursday on the first anniversary of the author's death at the age of 91. They show that the enigmatic writer of "The Catcher in the Rye" was an affectionate friend who enjoyed gardening, trips to the theater and church suppers—and thought one restaurant chain's burgers were better than the rest.

Chris Bigsby, professor of American studies at the letters' new home, the University of East Anglia, said they challenge Salinger's image as a near-hermit holed up in his New England home.

"These letters show a completely different man," Bigsby said. "This is a man who goes on (bus) parties to Nantucket or Niagara or the Grand Canyon

and enjoys chatting to people along the way.

"He goes to art galleries and theater and travels to London to see (Alan) Ayckbourn and (Anton) Chekhov plays. He was out and about."

The letters were written to Donald Hartog, a Londoner who met Salinger in 1938 when both were teenagers in Vienna, sent by their families to learn German. They corresponded after returning home—Salinger to try his hand as a writer, Hartog eventually going into the food import-export business.

The pair wrote to one another during World War II—in which Salinger fought as a soldier in the U.S. Army—but after a few years the friendship lapsed. Hartog's daughter Frances said her father burned those early letters while clearing out the house prior to a move.

"When we were kids it was sort of a joke—'My dad knew Salinger and burnt the letters,'" she said. "He was de-cluttering. He said, 'I looked at them and just thought, this guy's not going anywhere.'"

Hartog's literary judgment was wrong. Salinger became a

celebrity when "Catcher in the Rye" was published in 1951. The story of the angry but articulate 16-year-old Holden Caulfield has sold more than 35 million copies and remains a classic portrait of youthful rebellion.

The novel's success drove the attention-shy Salinger even further from the limelight. For several decades he lived quietly in tiny Cornish, New Hampshire, whose inhabitants took pride in protecting his privacy and seeing off interlopers. He gave few interviews and published relatively little.

His last book, "Raise High the Roof Beam, Carpenters and Seymour," came out in 1963. His last published work, the short story "Hapworth 16, 1924," appeared in The New Yorker in 1965.

Hartog made contact with his old friend after the publication of an unauthorized biography of Salinger in the 1980s. They began writing to one another regularly, and in 1989 Salinger traveled to Britain for Hartog's 70th birthday. The two friends went to the theater and visited a zoo, and Salinger met Hartog's three children.

Padma Lakshmi's ex sues for custody of her baby

NEW YORK (AP)—"Top Chef" host Padma Lakshmi is steeped in a custody fight, and the ingredients are plenty complex.

Venture capitalist Adam Dell sued Wednesday for custody of Lakshmi's 11-month-old daughter. He says a paternity test has shown he's the infant's father, but Lakshmi is sidelining him and trying to cast her current flame, financier Ted Forstmann, in that role.



Lakshmi

"either unable or unwilling to moderate either her social or business travel" for the child's sake.

The dispute, which has simmered for months in gossip pages, involves a perhaps unlikely trio of prominent people.

Best known for her "Top Chef" role, Lakshmi, 40, is also a former model and an ex-wife of novelist Salman Rushdie.

Dell, 41, is an investor who's been involved in technology firms, and he's the brother of computer giant Dell Inc. founder Michael Dell. Forstmann, 70, is the chief executive of sports and entertainment marketing firm IMG and was a 1980s pioneer in the use of leveraged buyouts, or deals financed at least partly with debt.

"Ms. Lakshmi's sole interest lies in preserving the privacy and welfare of her daughter and in working out a fair and amicable agreement out of the media's glare," spokeswoman Christina Papadopoulos said.

Forstmann declined to com-

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The Rite

Friday	4:20	7:20	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Mon thru Thurs	4:20	7:20	

Anthony Hopkins
Thriller • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Inspired by author Matt Baglio's nonfiction book of the same name, director Mikael Häfström's supernatural thriller traces the experiences of a young seminary student who discovers the true power of faith after being drafted into the Vatican's Exorcism School and confronted by the forces of darkness.



The Mechanic

Friday	4:25	7:25	9:35
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Mon thru Thurs	4:25	7:25	

Jason Statham, Ben Foster
Action • Rated R

Synopsis

Jason Statham stands in for Charles Bronson in this remake of the 1972 action thriller of the same name, in which a veteran hitman teaches his trade to an apprentice who has a connection to one of his previous victims. Simon West directs from a script adapted by Karl Gajdusek.



No Strings Attached

Friday	4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Mon thru Thurs	4:05	7:05	

Natalie Portman, Ashton Kutcher
Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis

Natalie Portman plays Emma Franklin, a doctor who's not really looking for love and is not ready for a relationship because of time issues and just wants to have someone to have sex with. She decided to have sex with her friend, Adam Kurtzman played by Ashton Kutcher. Things get complicated when a plain sexual relationship is mixed up with emotions. Adam falls for Emma and the problem arises when the feeling is not mutual.



The Green Hornet

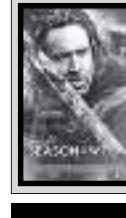
Friday	4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Mon thru Thurs	4:00	7:00	

Seth Rogen, Cameron Diaz
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Gulliver's Travels

Friday	4:30	7:30	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Mon thru Thurs	4:30	7:30	

Jack Black, Emily Blunt
Comedy, Fantasy • Rated PG



Season Of The Witch

Friday	4:10	7:10	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Mon thru Thurs	4:10	7:10	

Nicolas Cage, Ron Perlman
Thriller • Rated PG 13

The Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader

Friday	4:15	7:15	10:00
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Tues thru Thurs	4:15	7:15	

Georgie Henley, Ben Barnes
Fantasy, Children's, Family • Rated PG

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www.gohollywood.com

End of longtime friendship causes overwhelming pain

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: How do I cope with the ending of a very long friendship? I saw warning signs for a couple of years, and tried many times to talk to my best friend about what seemed to be happening. Her values and priorities are moving in other directions now. I no longer feel appreciated as her friend.

My heart is breaking. We have been friends for half our lives. This is more devastating than any divorce, death or hurricane I have ever experienced. She is how I have gotten through my life this far.

There are support groups out there for everything under the sun, except for losing a best friend due to indifference and lack of caring. Please advise me.

THROWN AWAY IN PASADENA, TEXAS

DEAR THROWN AWAY: I know you are hurting, and I am sorry. But friendships are not just made up of helping each other through the hard times; there is also a component of celebrating the good ones. While she may have been your leaning post, you need to examine what you were to her. If the load became too much to carry, it's understandable that she would need to back off.

While there are no support groups for people in your situation, there are counselors who can help you sort through your feelings—and because this experience has been devastating, you should talk with one.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
DEAR ABBY: I'm a 16-year-old girl from a religious home. When I was 7, my father got very drunk and molested me. It had a terrible impact on me.

He has apologized for what happened and knows I hate him for it and can't forgive him. It hasn't happened since, and I know he's telling the truth. I feel the next step in my healing is to confide in my friends and ask them to pray for me. But if I do, I know they won't look at me the same. I'm afraid they'll get their parents to intervene and something will happen to Dad. That's the last thing I want. Should I tell?

NEEDS SUPPORT IN PHILLY

DEAR NEEDS SUPPORT: You appear to be an idealistic, intelligent young woman. But it's important you understand that apologizing for committing a crime against someone is not enough. The person must also be willing to accept the consequences of his actions. Drop by an elementary school and look at the 7-year-olds on the playground. That's how small and vulnerable you were when your father molested you.

Ask yourself: Did he quit drinking and get help for his alcohol problem? Did he talk to his minister and confess what he did? Did he seek professional help of any kind? Are there little girls in your extended family?

You are exhibiting two classic signs of an abuse victim. One is thinking that people will regard you differently if you disclose that you were victimized. Another is the impulse to "protect" your abuser.

I'm all for the power of prayer, but rather than tell your girlfriends, is your mother aware of what happened? If she is unavailable to you, then you should talk to your minister or a trusted counselor at school. If you're afraid this will "betray" your father, call the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN) toll-free at (800) 656-4673. You can speak to one of the counselors there in complete confidence. They are experienced and can guide you about what—or what not—to do next.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)



Dear Abby

Penelope Cruz, Javier Bardem have a son

NEW YORK (AP)—Penelope Cruz and Javier Bardem are proud parents of a baby boy.

A spokeswoman for the actress confirmed Wednesday that Cruz gave birth to a boy last week. She says "both parents and baby are doing great." She provided no other details.

The couple were married at the beginning of July in the Bahamas.

The 36-year-old Cruz and the 41-year-old Bardem are from Spain. They appeared together in the 2008 Woody Allen romantic comedy "Vicky Cristina Barcelona." Cruz won a supporting-actress Oscar for her role.

Bardem is nominated for best actor this year for his role in the Spanish-language drama "Biutiful." He won a supporting-actor Oscar for the 2007 crime thriller "No Country for Old Men."



AP
In this May 23, 2010 file photo, actor Javier Bardem and actress Penelope Cruz arrive during the awards ceremony at the 63rd international film festival, in Cannes, southern France.

Sean 'Diddy' Combs set to guest on 'Hawaii Five-0'

NEW YORK (AP)—CBS says musician-actor Sean "Diddy" Combs will guest star on an upcoming episode of "Hawaii Five-O."

He will play NYPD Detective Reggie Williams, who arrives in Honolulu on the hunt for the men who committed a crime against his family.

The network said Wednesday that sev-

eral of Combs' hit songs will be featured on the episode, slated to air this spring.

Combs' other acting credits include "Monster's Ball" and an Emmy-nominated performance in "A Raisin in the Sun."

"Hawaii Five-O" stars Alex O'Loughlin and Scott Caan. It regularly airs Mondays at 10 p.m. EST.



Combs

Bret Michaels released from Phoenix hospital

PHOENIX (AP)—Officials at a Phoenix hospital say rock star Bret Michaels has been released from their care following a successful heart procedure.

St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center said Wednesday that Michaels left the hospital. The doctor who treated him reported the procedure to fix a hole in his heart produced excellent results.

Dr. Mansour Assar says the singer is expected to be able to



return to normal activities in a few weeks.

Doctors discovered the hole in Michael's heart in April while treating him for a brain hemorrhage. Surgeons Monday inserted a catheter into a vein in Michaels' groin with a closure device attached.

Doctors said the closure device will stay in Michaels' heart permanently to stop abnormal blood flow between two chambers of his heart.

In this July 12, 2010 file photo, singer and TV personality Bret Michaels arrives for a taping of "The Late Show with David Letterman" in New York.

AP

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Nickelodeon debuts 'SpongeBob' episode on Facebook

NEW YORK (AP)—"SpongeBob SquarePants" is giving Facebook friends a special treat. The popular Nickelodeon cartoon will debut a new 15-minute episode Thursday on the popular social website. Nick said Wednesday that "SpongeBob SquarePants" has more than 16 million 'friends' on Facebook. Those friends will be given instructions how to view the episode, which is titled "Trenchbillies" and guest stars Amy Sedaris, Thursday at 8 p.m. EST. The hour-long "Legends of Bikini Bottom" will premiere in prime time Friday. It will be repeated, adding the Facebook episode, for its Sunday morning fans.

Porn exec withdraws offer to buy Octomom's house

LA HABRA, Calif. (AP)—A Southern California porn king won't be buying "Octomom" Nadya Suleman's house. In a statement Wednesday, Vivid Entertainment founder Steven Hirsch says his adult entertainment company wanted to help Suleman but she rejected its offer to pay off her

mortgage. That means Suleman still owes the La Habra home's owner Amer Haddadin \$450,000 in a balloon payment. Haddadin's spokesman Victor Munoz says the homeowner is back to square one and is considering suing Suleman to evict her. Munoz says Haddadin's credit is being ruined by Suleman's late payments. Suleman's lawyer Jeff Czech says she wants nothing to do with Vivid. Czech says Suleman knows she's in no position to turn down a gift but she believes she's making the right decision.

Obama speech draws 42.8 million viewers

NEW YORK (AP)—The Nielsen Co. says 42.8 million people watched President Barack Obama's State of the Union address. That's down 11 percent from the 48 million people who watched Obama's annual speech to Congress and the American people in January 2010. Nielsen said Wednesday that Obama's speech was carried on 11 different networks: ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox, CNN, Fox News Channel, MSNBC, CNBC, Telemundo, Univision and Centric.

Donald Sutherland gets Hollywood Walk of Fame star

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Versatile actor Donald Sutherland, who has played everything from a Nazi spy to an aging astronaut, was honored Wednesday with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

His star was unveiled outside the Roosevelt Hotel next to son Kiefer Sutherland's star.

The elder Sutherland joked that getting a star was better than a headstone at a cemetery.

"This marker I can actually come and visit," Sutherland, 75, said. "I could get a chair and sit here, or a bucket and a mop and clean it, and make sure that people don't step on it."

Kiefer Sutherland wasn't able to attend the ceremony because of work obligations in New York. He wrote a message that was read by Colin Farrell, his father's co-star in the comedy "Horrible Bosses" due out later this year.

"I selfishly wanted to be there to simply tell you how proud I am to have you as my father and how even more proud I am to be your son," Kiefer Sutherland wrote.

The career of Canadian-born Donald Sutherland has spanned nearly five decades and included appearances in the movies "The Dirty Dozen," "The Day of the Locust," "Ordinary People" and "Space Cowboys."

He won Emmy and Golden Globe awards for his role in the 1995 television crime drama "Citizen X" and another Golden Globe award for his portrayal of presidential adviser Clark Clifford in the 2002 television movie "Path to War."

He appears in the thriller "The Mechanic" and the upcoming Roman epic "The Eagle."

He said he loves working and has no plans to retire.



AP
Canadian-born actor Donald Sutherland jokes as he is honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Wednesday Jan. 26, 2011 in Los Angeles.

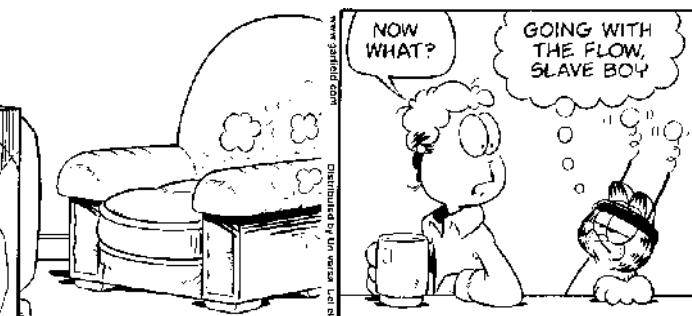
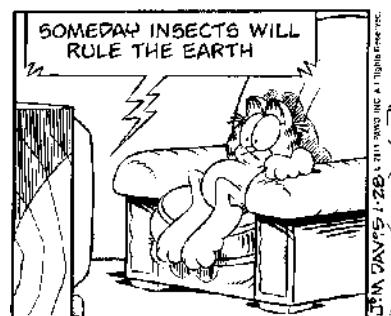
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



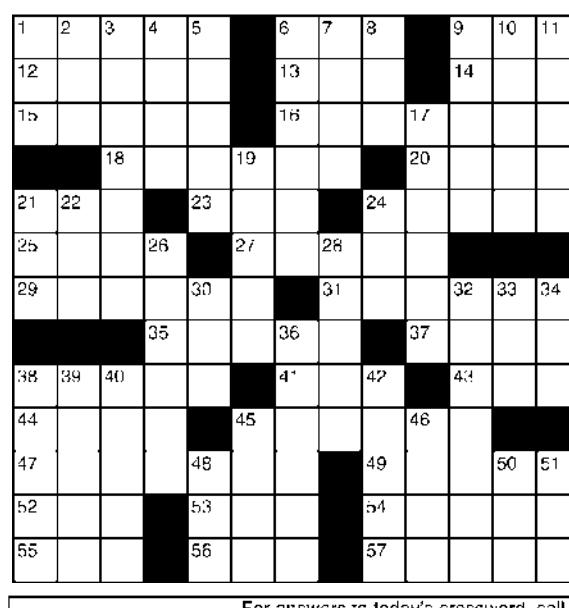
By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37	Unrepair-ed	2	Greek vowel	22	Clear the tables
1	Dublin-born	38 Trousers	3	Phases	24	MGM motto start
dramatist	41 A mere handful	4	Adoles-cent	26	Barely perceptible	
6	Sony rival	43 Cauldron	5	Beetle Bailey's boss	28	Garden shelter
9	Treasure-hunt aid	44 Authentic	6	Theater district	30	Month (Sp.)
12	Bewil-dered	45 From the beginning	7	Mama Elliot	32	Paving material
13	Selt expres-sion?	47 Malign	8	Pump up the volume	33	Carnival city
14	Grackle's cousin	49 Quickly	9	Donny's sister	34	Bygone iller
15	Tabloid	52 Female deer	10	Inner self, to Jung	36	Arouse resent-ment
16	Painkiller	53 Brooch	11	Lan-guished	38	Madrid museum
18	Marx col-laborator	54 Worth	12	Home of Odysseus	39	Man of morals?
20	Fourth dimen-sion	55 Chances, for short	13	19 Top	40	Scruffs
21	Regis and Kelly's network	56 Al Jaffee's magazine	14	21 Literary collection	42	Make on a loom
23	Secnd ph.	57 Cosmeti-cian	15	1 Shriek bark	45	Largest of the seven
24	Winning	Lauder	16	10 Collection	46	Hottubs
25	"Phoeby"	17	17	20	48	Spinning stat
27	Hooded slitherer	18	18	21	50	Prompt
29	Take for granted	19	19	22	51	Shoe width
31	Holly-wood statuary	20	20	23		
35	Down-stairs	21	21	22		
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		56	56	57		

Yesterday's answer 1-28



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Elijah Wood, 30; Nick Carter, 31; Sarah McLachlan, 43; Alan Alda, 75

Happy Birthday: The future looks bright. Be the powerhouse you know you can be and you'll see the benefits begin to come your way. Your dedication, coupled with your insightfulness, know-how and willingness to do things differently will arouse interest in people who can contribute to your cause. Stabilization and security will prevail. Your numbers are 2, 5, 18, 27, 31, 38, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take advantage of a moneymaking opportunity. Don't let past jobs or people you have worked with cause you to shy away from a similar deal. A partnership that was a problem in the past can now be used to your advantage. ☀♦♦♦

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll feel like you are in a tug of war if you allow others to manipulate your territory. Stand strong and defend your position and your assets. Do your homework before you volunteer time or money. ☀♦♦

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You've got a lot going on but, by practicing efficiency, you can accomplish your goals and master a new set of skills. Love is apparent and an emotional connection can be enhanced by an act of thoughtfulness. ☀♦♦

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Set your sights high but don't go overboard. A change in your financial status due to a job interview, advancement or coming into an unexpected gift or payoff of some sort is evident. ☀♦♦

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Emotions will be running high and the chance of making a mistake is likely. Change is upon you but, to ensure that it is favorable, take each step carefully and make sure you are getting exactly what you want. Love is in the stars. ☀♦♦

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may be fooled by your own shortsightedness. Look beyond, ask questions and

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The more you interact with friends, peers or people who share your interests, the more you will gain in knowledge and encouragement. There is plenty to look forward to, so plan your next trip or consider taking a course. ☀♦♦♦

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): With a little push and help from your friends, you can accomplish anything you set out to do. Prepare to put in long hours and hard work and the payoff will come your way. Don't let anyone who is not supportive stand in your way. ☀♦

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Learn more about what your community offers and how you can be a part of it. The interaction you have today will give you ideas regarding a service you can offer. There is money to be made if you invest in your own ability and talent. ☀♦♦

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take a leap of faith. The idea is not bad, it's the way others have gone about doing it that has caused them to fail. You can learn and make minor adjustments, allowing you to be the one who finds success in a challenging field. ☀♦♦

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You are positioned and poised for success. You can convince others to have an interest in your ideas. Using your timing and expertise to the fullest will lead to your personal and professional happiness. ☀♦

Birthday Baby: You are creative and have desire, determination and a strong will to overcome whatever difficulty you face. Your intent is to do what's right.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COURTESY 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

4				9				
1	5	3	9		7			
3		4	5		8			
4					9			
6	8	2			3			
7	3	1	4		2			
9					6			

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	2	4	1	7	3	6	9	5
3	5	7	6	4	9	8	2	1
9	1	6	5	2	8	4	3	7
4	6	8	9	5	1	3	7	2
2	3	5	7	8	4	1	6	9
1	7	9	3	6	2	5	4	8
7	9	1	4	3	5	2	8	6
6	8	3	2	1	7	9	5	4
5	4	2	8	9	6	7	1	3

Difficulty Level ***

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle, horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEM LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM

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ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
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• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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1

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The Saipan Chamber of Commerce
is seeking an

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is a private, non-profit organization. Its purpose is to further the interests of business, as well as to promote economic progress and quality of life, in Saipan.

The Executive Director reports directly to the Chamber Board of Directors and manages the Chamber office.

Responsibilities:

- Promote Chamber membership within the business community
- Manage the Chamber office and staff and serve as custodian of Chamber funds
- Organize and attend Board of Directors meetings and committee meetings, activities
- Research/review/analyze legislation, regulations, and policies, and prepare written comments
- Serve as Chamber liaison to government and to other community organizations
- Plan and coordinate Chamber activities throughout the year
- Coordinate internal and external communications
- Prepare monthly newsletter and other publications and correspondence
- Prepare and ensure compliance with annual budget
- Maintain Chamber website

The applicant must have the following minimum qualifications:

- Legally authorized to work in the United States
- Bachelor's degree in business-related field, or equivalent experience
- Strong analytical and writing skills
- Strong work ethic and customer service skills
- Self-motivated
- Ability to work with a diverse team and meet deadlines
- Excellent organizational and office skills
- Experience with computer systems/software
- Experience with public relations, including public speaking and press release dissemination

Chamber office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday; however, this is a salaried position and hours will vary. Salary will depend on experience and qualifications.

Qualified individuals should submit a resume and application to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office, 1st floor, Family Building in Garapan or contact 233-7150 for more information. Deadline for submission is February 7, 2011.

Job description and application materials are available on the Chamber's website at www.saipanchamber.com.

WHATZIT Solution:
Short end of the stick



DFS SAIPAN LIMITED has a job opening for

Team Lead, Sales

As the Team Lead, Sales reports to the Assistant General Manager (AGM) at the Saipan International Airport, this is a key role in the delivery of the DFS' vision of exceptional people delivering exceptional product. They inspire, lead and develop the sales team to deliver a seamless customer experience as exceptional people who are delivering exceptional product, building customer loyalty and relationships while delivering sales and productivity targets.

The Team Lead, Sales proactively coaches and updates the sales team regularly on opportunities for continuous improvement of skills and knowledge. They foster a service environment that empowers and develops a cohesive and focused team that passionately creates unique and memorable, luxury service experiences that builds our brand and customer loyalty and delivers sales. The Team Leader Sales possesses a passion for the brands and products they represent.

Position Requirements:

- Education: Degree or an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential functions.
- Critical Skills: Strong command of English language; fluency in other languages as required by location.
- Work Experience: 1 – 2 team leadership experience within retail / service industry preferred

Prospective applicants will be subject for pre-employment drug test and will be required to submit police clearance upon hiring.

Applications are available at the reception area, 2nd floor of DFS Galleria Monday to Friday between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

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Unit # 4 - 800 Sq. Ft.
Unit # 5 - 800 Sq. Ft.
Unit # 10 - 800 Sq. Ft.
Unit # 11 - 800 Sq. Ft.

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MMC at
235-8980**

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MMC 1 - CHALAN PIAO

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Must be a healthy, honest, nice, educated, 25 to 35 years old, U.S. citizenship or Saipan female. Welcome to meet! I am a businessman, many years in Saipan, single, College graduate. Height 175cm, weight 80kg, and age 36. I love to travel and play sports, healthy, faithful, and friendly. I don't smoke and gamble.
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Gmail: saipanbbc@gmail.com

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Durant overcomes Love in overtime thriller



MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Minnesota Timberwolves threw everything they had at Kevin Durant.

They put hands in his face. They bodied him on the block. They knocked him down in the paint.

It was almost enough. Almost.

Durant had career highs of 47 points and 18 rebounds, and the Oklahoma City Thunder overcame a 31-point, 21-rebound night from Kevin Love to beat the Timberwolves, 118-117, in overtime on Wednesday night.

Jeff Green had 19 points and eight rebounds for the Thunder, who beat Minnesota for the eighth straight time. But it was Durant who carried the load, scoring 16 straight points for the Thunder in the fourth quarter of a thrilling back-and-forth game.

"All I can say is Durant is incredible," Love said, a glazed look in his eye. "He's incredible."

Durant's 47 points tied Clippers star Blake Griffin for the highest total in the NBA this season and came from every spot on the floor. He hit four 3-pointers, 13-of-14 free throws and drilled a 15-foot, step-back jumper over Corey Brewer with 28 seconds left in overtime that held up as the game winner.

"I hope I don't ever take it for granted because that's pretty impressive," Thunder center Nick Collison said. "To be able to kind of carry us like that, we needed every one of those."

Michael Beasley had 30 points, nine rebounds and seven assists for the Timberwolves, who had a chance to win the game in the final 7 seconds. But Luke Ridnour rushed a 3-pointer after a missed free throw by Brewer and the Thunder tracked down the loose ball to seal it.

The Northwest Division-leading Thunder had to work for this one against a team that has lost 18 straight division games. The game featured eight lead changes in the final 3 1/2 minutes of regulation, then was tied twice more in overtime.

It was another tough loss for Love and the Timberwolves, who had a chance to win it in regulation. But Love's short hook shot went halfway down before rattling out, sending the game to overtime.

"When it left my hand, I said, 'That thing's in,'" Love said. "I was about to run back to the locker room right away. That thing went in and out."

Durant got off to a bit of a slow start while being pestered by Brewer, Minnesota's best perimeter defender. He missed nine of his first 14 shots, but offset that by getting to the free throw line 10 times.

When Brewer picked up his fourth foul midway through the third quarter, Durant flourished with the extra space. He scored

eight points in the final 53 seconds of the period, including a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

Durant struck a pose as the shot swished through, leaving his shooting hand up for posterity and then putting his hands on his hips as if to say, "Don't worry guys, I got this." He had 16 points and eight rebounds in a dominating third quarter that gave Oklahoma City a four-point lead heading into the fourth.

"I was a little upset with myself with the first half, the shots I was missing," Durant said. "The second half I was able to get to where I wanted to, get to the free throw line. I think my rebounding sparked me a little bit. So I was able to get some rebounds and push it up and get some easy points."

The young Wolves didn't go away, though, taking a 97-94 lead on a 3-pointer by Love with 4:30 to play.

But each time the Wolves took a lead down the stretch, Durant came up with a huge shot to answer. First a 3-pointer to tie it, then two free throws, then a silky smooth jumper from the wing for good measure.

Love brought the crowd to its feet when he blew by Green for a dunk, but Durant responded again, blowing by Wes Johnson for a dunk, converting the three-point play for a 104-103 lead.

"It's impossible to stop him," Wolves forward Anthony Tolliver said.

Russell Westbrook had an off night for the Thunder, scoring 16 points on 7-for-19 shooting with six turnovers. But his driving hoop with 26 seconds left gave Oklahoma City a 108-107.

Ridnour scored on a twisting layup on the other end to take back the lead, but the 92 percent free throw shooter missed a freebie and Green scored to tie it at 110 with 4 seconds to go in regulation.

The Timberwolves (10-35) look to Oklahoma City and see hope. Four years ago, the Thunder won 20 games in their final season in Seattle. Three years ago they went 23-59. But they landed Durant, Green and Westbrook in two drafts and now are one of the up-and-coming teams in the Western Conference.

The Thunder won 50 games last season and have positioned themselves as a legitimate challenger to the Lakers and Spurs, two teams that aren't getting any younger.

"They are exactly where we were," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said. "We were in a lot



Oklahoma City Thunder's Kevin Durant, left, drives by Minnesota Timberwolves' Wesley Johnson in the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2011 in Minneapolis. AP

of close games. The year we won 23 games, that's what the learning is all about. You're learning. You're not losing. Unfortunately, the record says you lost the game, but they're learning how to win and they will figure it out."

Bobcats 114, Suns 107
In Phoenix, Stephen Jackson scored 16 of his 23 points in the second half and the Bobcats won for the fourth time in five games.

Gerald Wallace had 16 of his 22 points in the second half for Charlotte, much improved since Paul Silas replaced Larry Brown as coach. After a 94-89 win at Sacramento on Tuesday, the Bobcats are off to a 2-0 start on a six-game road trip.

Steve Nash had 27 points and 15 assists and Vince Carter scored 22 for Phoenix on his 34th birthday, but the Bobcats shot 51 percent to beat the Suns for the fourth time in a row.

The Suns lost their third straight despite making 16 of 32 3-pointers.

Spurs 112, Jazz 105

In Salt Lake City, Manu Ginobili scored 26 points, Tony Parker had 23 and San Antonio earned its 10th win the last 11 games.

Richard Jefferson scored 14 points as the Spurs improved to a franchise-best 39-7 record after 46 games. Only five teams in NBA history have had better re-

cords than the Spurs at this point in the season.

Deron Williams scored 17 of his 39 points in the fourth quarter, but Utah lost its sixth straight.

Al Jefferson had 22 points and CJ Miles added 13 for the Jazz.

Rockets 96, Clippers 83

In Houston, Kyle Lowry scored 20 points, leading Houston to victory over Los Angeles.

Aaron Brooks and Luis Scola added 16 points apiece for the Rockets, while Chuck Hayes grabbed 11 rebounds and led Houston's stingy defense on rookie star Blake Griffin.

Randy Foye scored a season-high 20 points and DeAndre Jordan grabbed 12 rebounds for the Clippers, who mustered only 10 points in the final quar-

ter to drop their fourth straight road game.

Griffin had 14 points and 11 rebounds, shooting only 5 for 16 from the field.

Magic 111, Pacers 96

In Indianapolis, Dwight Howard had 19 points and 16 rebounds to help the Orlando Magic beat the Indiana Pacers 111-96 in the NBA on Wednesday.

Jason Richardson added 19 points and nine rebounds, Hedo Turkoglu scored 18 points and Ryan Anderson had 14 for Orlando, which has won four of its past five games.

Danny Granger scored 27 points and Darren Collison added 21 for Indiana, which lost its sixth straight.

The 15-point defeat matched the Pacers' worst home loss of the season.

Nets 93, Grizzlies 88

In Newark, New Jersey, Devin Harris scored nine of his 13 points in the fourth quarter as the hosts beat Memphis.

O.J. Mayo missed a tying 3-point attempt with about 3 seconds left

and New Jersey's Brook Lopez sealed the victory with two free throws, capping a 17-point performance.

Anthony Morrow had 19 points and Kris Humphries and Sasha Vujacic added 14 points apiece as the Nets closed out a 4-1 homestand that began with Russian owner Mikhail Prokhorov halting trade talks with Denver for Carmelo Anthony.

Rudy Gay had 22 points for Memphis and Zach Randolph added 20 points and 16 rebounds.

76ers 107, Raptors 94

At Toronto, Marreese Speights scored a season-high 23 points to lead Philadelphia over Toronto.

Jrue Holiday had 15 points and 11 assists and Andre Iguodala and Lou Williams each scored 15 as the 76ers won

their third straight, matching a season high.

DeMar DeRozan scored 29 and Andrea Bargnani had 17 as the Raptors lost their ninth straight game. It's Toronto's longest losing streak since a 10-game slide from March 26 to April 12, 2006.

Nuggets 109, Pistons 100

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Chauncey Billups scored 26 points, including a trio of 3-pointers late in the game, as Denver topped Detroit.

Carmelo Anthony had 18 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists to help the Nuggets win for the seventh time in nine games.

Will Bynum scored 19 points and Ben Gordon added 15 for Detroit, which had won five of seven.

The Pistons trailed by one with a few minutes left, but Anthony converted a three-point play and Billups found his range from deep to help Denver win on the road against Detroit for the first time since 1995.

Bucks 98, Hawks 90

In Milwaukee, Earl Boykins scored 11 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter to help Milwaukee rally past Atlanta.

The short-handed Bucks, missing three starters, trailed by 11 points heading into the final period before going on a 22-3 run to end Atlanta's road winning streak at six, one short of a franchise record.

Milwaukee is without Brandon Jennings, John Salmons and Drew Gooden, all of whom are injured.

Jamal Crawford led Atlanta with 20 points.

Hornets 112, Warriors 103

In Oakland, California, Chris Paul had 18 points and 17 assists as New Orleans matched a franchise record with their 10th consecutive victory.

David West added 22 points for the Hornets, which also avenged a disappointing seven-point home loss to the Warriors on Jan. 5 with their fifth straight road victory.

Monta Ellis scored 26 points in another big night for his bid to become Golden State's first All-Star player since Latrell Sprewell in 1997.

Knicks overtake Lakers in Forbes value rankings

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Knicks have overtaken the Los Angeles Lakers as the NBA's most valuable franchise, and 17 of the 30 teams are estimated to have lost money last season, according to Forbes.

The Knicks' value rose 12 percent from \$586 million to \$655 million, the magazine said Wednesday in its annual evaluation. The rise was attributed to increased ticket sales

and sponsorships at Madison Square Garden.

The Lakers went up 6 percent from \$607 million to \$643 million.

Chicago was third at \$511 million, followed by Boston (\$452 million), Houston (\$443 million) and Dallas (\$438 million).

After signing LeBron James, the Miami Heat had the biggest percentage rise, a 17 percent increase to \$425 million, good

for seventh place. Following the loss of James, Cleveland dropped a league-high 26 percent to \$355 million.

The average value of a franchise increased 1 percent to \$369 million, down from \$379 million two years ago.

Forbes estimated teams averaged \$6.1 million in operating income. It said the total of teams that lost money is the most since the lockout-shortened 1998-99 season.

Contador: Spanish cycling wants 1-year doping ban

MADRID (AP)—Spanish cycling officials want three-time Tour de France winner Alberto Contador banned for one year for failing a 2010 Tour doping test.

Contador confirmed the proposed sanction Wednesday in a statement released by his spokesman. He said the Spanish federation's disciplinary committee informed him of the decision.

If banned, Contador would lose his third Tour title because of the positive clenbuterol result he blames on contaminated meat. The Spanish cyclist also would be ineligible to compete in this year's Tour.

Contador has 10 days to challenge the one-year proposal by presenting new evidence or material, according to Spanish federation rules. After that, the four-person disciplinary committee will reconvene to decide whether to uphold or change the proposed sanction.

With seven-time Tour champion Lance Armstrong back in retirement, Contador is cycling's biggest star, so it would be devastating for the sport if he is banned.

The 28-year-old Contador, who also won the Tour in 2007 and 2009, said he will hold a news conference on Friday



in Palma de Mallorca, where he is taking part in preseason training with his Saxo Bank-SunGard team. Saxo Bank officials did not answer calls seeking comment Wednesday.

The final decision—expected around Feb. 10—still could be appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport by Contador, the International Cycling Union (UCI) or the World Anti-Doping Agency. The standard doping penalty is a two-year ban.

The UCI and WADA said they would wait until the final verdict before commenting.

The Spanish federation said it delivered an initial decision made by its disciplinary committee but declined to confirm the proposed one-year sanction.

If Contador were stripped of the 2010 Tour victory, the title would go to runner-up Andy Schleck of Luxembourg.

Contador would be the second cyclist to lose the Tour title. The first was American Floyd Landis, who was stripped of his 2006 Tour victory after a positive test. For years, Landis denied doping but admitted last year that he used performance-enhancing drugs.

Contador, winner of both the Giro d'Italia and Spanish Vuelta in 2008, tested positive during a rest day at last year's Tour.

Woods looks for fresh start at Torrey Pines

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Tiger Woods at Torrey Pines felt like the start of any other season on the PGA Tour, except when he awoke at 3:30 a.m. Wednesday and realized he had plenty of time on his hands.

Gone was the crack-of-dawn tee time in the pro-am that had belonged to him for so many years, a product of being the No. 1 player. He was 68th on the money list last year and no longer gets first pick of the best tee times.

"I get to sleep in a little bit," Woods said. "Got up at 3:30 this morning not knowing what to do."

He isn't the defending champion, even though Woods hasn't lost at Torrey Pines since 2004. Then again, he hasn't played since 2008 because of knee surgery, followed by an imploding personal life last year.

Woods said he is looking forward to the Farmers Insurance Open, which can be interpreted so many ways.

It's a new year, and he would just as soon forget about the last one. Woods failed to win anywhere in the world for the first time in his pro career while going through a divorce brought on by his extramarital affairs.

He also feels that he has restored a sense of balance to his life, and he's eager to see how that will translate to golf.

"I think in order to play this game at a high level, it helps to have a clear mind," Woods said before going out for his 11

a.m. pro-am time on the South Course. "I've played at the high levels before in the past without a clear mind, but it helps to be consistent. It helps having your life in balance. Certainly, my life is much more balanced than it was in the past. That's exciting for me. I think it's exciting for my kids, and we're really looking forward to it."

Woods and Phil Mickelson are the top attractions, as always, even though it's odd to promote them as No. 3 and No. 5 in the world. Mickelson's distractions last year weren't self-inflicted. He had to cope with arthritis the second half of the season, and now can resume his workouts and other preparations.

"I've been antsy to get back and play," Mickelson said. "I didn't finish the year the way I wanted to, and I wanted to try to make 2011 the year that I thought 2010 was going to be."

He also expects a different look from Woods. Mickelson played with him in the final round in Chicago last year, and noticed the speed in his swing starting to return.

"I expect that he'll be the Tiger that we've known for over a decade, unfortunately," Mickelson said with a grin.

Woods said he's fresh going into a new season for the first time in about six years, although his two-month break was not pain-free. He had a cortisone shot in his right ankle two days

after the Chevron World Challenge, which he said kept him out for a week.

Even so, there wasn't much else on his mind besides golf.

"It's nice to have an offseason where I wasn't in pain and recovering from something," Woods said. "I've had so many darn surgeries and everything. Granted, I had a cortisone shot, but I was fine in a week. I haven't had an offseason like this. It's always been trying to somehow, 'Can I get myself to start up again?' This was nice to actually practice and build."

Now it's time to evaluate his game. And there's no better to measure the progress than Torrey Pines.

His seventh win as a pro on this public course along the Pacific Bluffs was perhaps the most famous, the 2008 U.S. Open. He made a 12-foot birdie on the 72nd hole to force a playoff with Rocco Mediate, and beat him in 19 holes the next day.

Not by coincidence, Woods will be playing with Mediate (along with Anthony Kim) the first two rounds. The PGA Tour this year is moving around some of the pairings to create story lines.

Mediate expects to see the Woods he did that day at Torrey.

"My opinion, if he gets it and starts driving his ball where he's looking, the game is over," Mediate said. "It doesn't matter who is there. Call it what you want. I've seen it. I've been

around it. I've studied it. If you put him in the fairway, as good as he puts, as good as his short game is, good luck. If he can get the ball back on the fairway, Tiger will become Tiger again."

More than hitting fairways is making putts, and Woods had his worst year on the greens last year. He still might not have won, but he probably would have at least come close, and he didn't do that last year until his final tournament at the Chevron World Challenge.

Woods blew a four-shot lead—the first time he had lost a lead that large—and was beaten in a playoff by U.S. Open champion Graeme McDowell. But what Woods recalls most about that day was being tied for the lead on the last hole and hitting an 8-iron to inside 3 feet for a birdie. He just wasn't counting on McDowell rolling in a 20-foot birdie of his own.

"The whole year last year, golf-wise, came down to one shot, and that's what I'm so proud of," Woods said. "I needed to hit the 8-iron with that kind of shot, and I pulled it off. That one shot was it. That was cool."

As for the putting?

Woods said he was too distracted to work on his short game. The divorce took some four months of his season, and practice was devoted to a swing gone awry. He tried to fix it himself before hiring swing coach Sean Foley in August.

Where he goes from here remains the mystery.

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Next to Subway

Lady Geckos, Lady Ayuyus win in MISO v-ball

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

 Saipan International School and Kagman High School each reined supreme in yesterday's 2010-2011 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Varsity Volleyball League at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Lady Geckos are still perfect in five games, while the Lady Ayuyus evened out their win-loss card to a pair of wins with two losses.

Top-ranked SIS swept the Saipan Southern High School (1-3) in all three sets on the north court. SIS torched Lady

Manta Rays, 25-6, in the opening set to set the tone for the remainder of the contest.

Southern found some rhythm in the second match, but still suffered a double-digit loss, 15-25. Then Southern put up a well-improved battle in the final set, but SIS prevailed, 15-13, to clinch the sweep.

The Lady Ayuyus, meanwhile, took the first set over MHS 2, 25-17, on the south court. MHS 2 Lady Dolphins were a bit deflated after the tough opening loss and fell again in the second set, 12-25.

KHS went on to take the third set, 15-13, to complete the sweep, however MHS 2 put up a tough fight in the match. MHS 2 is still looking for its first win



Kagman High School's Andrea Camacho returns a serve to Marianas High School 2 in their MISO Girls Varsity Volleyball League matchup yesterday at the MHS Gymnasium.

Gov't/biz cage meeting on Feb. 2



The 2nd Annual Inter-Government/Business Basketball League is set to tip off on Feb. 8 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

To this end, league officials are calling for an organizational meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2pm at the Ada Gym conference room.

Entrance fees, roster confirmations, game schedules, registration criteria, and other related matters will be addressed at the meeting.

The competing field will be limited to 16 teams this season and slots will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. The first 16 teams to pay in full will be awarded entrance into the competition.

much after he fouled out, as Juan Maratita, Sahj Hossain, Ichitaro Faisao, and Jason Palacios were there to protect the Ayuyus' big lead.

In the fourth quarter, Southern was content trading baskets with Kagman and only managed to cut the lead to a decent number when the Ayuyus failed to score in the last 1:23 of the game.

Maratita paced Kagman with 26 points, while Hossain and Palacios added 23 and 13, respectively. Despite fouling out, Talalemoto still tallied 12, duplicating Faisao's output.

Games will be played with four 10-minute quarters on Tuesday and Thursday evenings with the first matchup starting at 6:30pm, followed by an 8:30pm game.

Various team and individual trophies will be awarded accordingly after conclusion of the playoffs.

Specifics about the types of awards and the playoff format

are still being determined. There is a maximum of 15 players per roster and all players must be 18 years or older to participate.

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs was crowned last year's champion and is expected to return for its title defense.

Contact league coordinator Mario Sablan at 664-2508 or 989-1604 for more information.
(Walter Sutherland)

ett 8, Macahito 6, Salem 5, Mariano 4, Kwon 4.

KHS 29 – Lampkin 10, B. Santos 7, Palacios 5, Butters 2, Jaben 2, J. Santos 2.

Scoring by quarters: 8-2, 16-7, 27-10, 41-29.

Second Game

KHS 93 – Maratita 26, Hossain 23, Palacios 13, Faisao 12, Talalemoto 12, Babauta 2.

SSHS 78 – Castro 20, Ecalnea 18, Cadiang 17, Ngeskebei 6, Byun 6, Salem 4, Tudela 4, Villanueva 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-12, 44-34, 71-51, 93-78.

fourth loss in a row.

Last Monday, Kagman High School defeated MHS 1, 1-0, in their matchup at the Southern soccer field.

Rita Taitano scored the lone goal of the game in the first half of play.

The Lady Ayuyus now hold a 2-0-2 record, while MHS 1 dropped to a 1-1-2 card.

The MISO girls soccer season continues at 4:15pm this afternoon when KHS hosts MHS 2 at the Southern soccer field.

The heavy-footed right wing scored from about 30 feet out in the 24-minute mark before finding the back of the net on another breakaway in the final minute. Fejeran also managed a third shot on goal that was caught by Southern goalkeeper Stevie Lyn Muna just seconds before the whistle.

Fejeran took a break at the start of the second half, but MHS 2 managed to keep the ball on its offensive end of the field.

Southern did however manage

to have the bid papers done next month, as submission of bids is set for March this year during the Pacific Games Council meeting. The Commonwealth and Vanuatu are the two island-nations expected to submit bids for the hosting rights of the quadrennial competition.

The bid papers must contain the proposed dates and events for the Mini Games, accommodations for athletes and officials, per diem cost, transportation, and most importantly venues

for the various competitions.

When the Commonwealth hosted the 2006 Micronesian Games, the event took place during the school break (last week of June to first week of July) and the Marianas High School and Public School System's buses were used for accommodations and transportation, respectively. For the venues, NMASA is expected to showcase the Oleai Sports Complex where majority of the facilities are located. Other venues

of the season in five tries.

In yesterday's 5:30pm pairings, GCA (2-2) was challenging Southern on the north court, while SIS squared off against MHS 2 on the south end. Results of these matchups will be released tomorrow.

The season continues at

4:30pm on Tuesday at MHS Gym with MHS 1 (3-1) hosting KHS on the north court, while Southern poses as the home team against MHS 2 on the south end.

Then at 5:30pm, KHS visits SIS on the north court, while GCA welcomes visiting MHS 2 at the south end.

with a layup, anew after another Rollers' miscue.

With 17 seconds left and the Rollers in possession, Deocares instructed his players to extend their defense to the 3-point line. Mobil defenders followed his instruction, hounding Rollers shooters, and the latter's Ham Hambros was forced to make a basket in the paint.

Mobil's advantage was sliced to one, 96-95, and it preserved the lead and stole the victory, as only one second was left in the game after Hambros' basket.

Tamayo top-scored for Mobil with 23 points, while Marvin Rabauliman and Estolas chipped in 22 and 19, respectively. Ron Gamboa had 17, making nine of them in the fourth to help Estolas and Tamayo bring Mobil back after falling behind in the third period.

First Game

NMC Proa 84 – Iguel 30, Lizama 20, Johnson 8, Ruluked 6, A. Barcinas 6, Mendiola 4, Babauta 7, Valdez 4, D. Barcenas 2, Villacrusis 2.

Hoopaholics 54 – Villacrusis 18, D. Sablan 14, Joyner 8, Manibusan 6, J. Sablan 2, P. Rasa 2, I. Rasa 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-11, 41-27, 59-37, 84-54.

Second Game

Mobil 96 – Tamayo 23, Rabauliman 22, Estolas 19, Gamboa 17, Gapor 6, Factor 2, Artates 2, Sharry 2.

Rollers 95 – Matagolai 44, Tereyego 13, Ulloa 12, Hambros 6, Metran 6, Santos 6, Reyes 4, Ogarto 4.

Scoring by quarters: 16-20, 45-48, 69-79, 96-95.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	34	10	.773	—
New York	23	21	.523	11
Philadelphia	20	25	.444	14 1/2
New Jersey	14	32	.304	21
Toronto	13	33	.283	22

Southeast Division

Miami	31	13	.705	—
Orlando	30	16	.652	2
Atlanta	29	17	.630	3
Charlotte	19	25	.432	12
Washington	13	31	.295	18

Central Division

Chicago	31	14	.689	—
Milwaukee	17	26	.395	13
Indiana	16	26	.381	13 1/2
Detroit	17	29	.370	14 1/2
Cleveland	8	37	.178	23

WESTERN CONFERENCE

San Antonio	39	7	.848	—
New Orleans	31	16	.660	8 1/2
Dallas	29	15	.659	9
Memphis	22	24	.478	17
Houston	22	25	.468	17 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	29	16	.644	—
Denver	27	18	.600	2
Utah	27	19	.587	2 1/2
Portland	25	21	.543	4 1/2
Minnesota	10	35	.222	19

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	33	13	.717	—
Phoenix	20	24	.455	12
Golden State	19	26	.422	13 1/2

MISO CAGE STANDINGS

Varsity	W	L
KHS	5	0
MHS	4	1
SSHS	2	3
GCA	1	3
MCS	0	4

Junior Varsity

NMC Foundation Open scheduled for April 30



Golfers, including NMC Board of Regents chair Paz Younis (left), pose for a photo during last year's NMC Foundation Golf Tournament. The next tournament sponsored by the NMC Foundation will be held on April 30 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

In its efforts to advance post secondary education in the CNMI, the Northern Marianas College Foundation announced that its signature event, the NMC Foundation Open Golf Tournament, will be held on April 30 on the east course of the the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

This will be the ninth year

the tournament has been held. The NMC Foundation is a non-profit organization composed of community volunteers committed to elevating higher education opportunities for CNMI students. All proceeds from the tournament will be used to support NMC's educational programs and services.

"Over the years, the NMC Foundation Open has built a loyal following of golfers who are dedicated to helping the

College," said NMC Foundation president Ben Babauta. "We are extremely thankful for their continued support and look forward to seeing them on the golf course in April."

"This year marks NMC's 30th anniversary, so the tournament in April promises to be an even more exciting event. We're also encouraging golfers who have not played in the Foundation Open before to join us this year," Babauta added.

"All funds raised will help our students meet their educational goals, so it's a win-win situation for everyone."

With a shotgun start at 7am, the tournament is a medal play format. In addition to first, second, and third place prizes for each flights, the tournament will include hole-in-one prizes. The lucky golfer who makes a hole-in-one shot at the designated sites will win significant prizes donated by

the tournament's sponsors.

The entrance fee for the tournament is only \$95 per player. Interested players are invited to bring their family, friends, and playing partners for a fantastic day of fun and fundraising for a good cause. There will be six separate flight categories: Champions, A, B, C, Seniors, and Ladies.

The NMC Foundation is also asking companies or in-

dividuals who can contribute Education Tax Credit, monetary or in-kind donations to sponsor the tournament. A special sponsors' reception will be held on April 29, the evening before the tournament. Those interested in sponsoring the event or who are interested in registering to play can contact the Northern Marianas College at 234-5498 extension 1050 or 1051. (NMC)

Chamolinian Softball League season opener set tonight

By Walter Sutherland
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Chamolinian Softball Association's 2nd Annual Budweiser Slow-Pitch Softball League kicks off tonight at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

CSA is inviting the public to witness the start of the action when defending champion Natibu face off against a randomly selected opponent at 6:30pm.

All teams are required to attend the 6pm opening ceremony, as all three matchups of the night, including the game in the women's division, will be determined in a raffle.

The women's division includes teams Check It Out, Enamoneta, Proa, Sakudi, and TNC Clan. Their game is slated at 7:30pm.

Finally, two more men's teams will draw to see who plays in the finale 8:30pm men's division game.

Next week's matchups will also be determined during the opener.

Bob Coldeen will serve as tonight's master of ceremonies. CSA president Mark Palacios will deliver the opening remarks.

Gus Kaipat will then take the microphone for the singing of the national anthem, followed by an invocation by Father

Celso Magbanua. Jess Wabol will provide the keynote message, while Mar-Pac general manager Tom Shimizu will be on hand as guest speaker.

Then just before the anticipated team raffle, those in attendance will hold a special tribute to the late Tony Iguel, a former player.

The regular season men's division games are scheduled for 6:30pm and 8:30pm on Mondays and Fridays, with three games featured on Wednesdays and start hourly from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. The women's games will be played in between the men's games on Monday and Friday evenings at 7:30pm. All games will be played at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

Both divisions will have a round-robin format.

Last year, 21 men's teams competed in a double-elimination format. In the 2010 finals, top seeded Natibu defeated Man Amigos, 20-18, to take home CSA's perpetual trophy.

Along with Natibu and Man Amigos, the other 13 men's teams include Berdax, G-Ballers, PHAT Boyz, Saltyz, Gorillas, V-Power, Braddahs, X-Clusive, Ur-Balls, Calikano-Groupers, LaoLao Bay Resort, Red Eye, and Team Familia.

For more information, contact Mark Palacios at 322-7444, Liz Palacios at 287-8869, or email Joey Dela Cruz at budkingsbaseball@yahoo.com.

RGA January Ace Sunday

The Refaluwasch Golf Association will be holding its January Ace Tournament this Sunday at Coral Ocean Point.

Check-in time is at 11am, while tee time is set for 12pm.

The score to beat is net 70, which Joe Saures recorded during the RGA qualifying tournament on Jan. 16, also at COP. If no RGA member scores better than net 70, Saures gets to keep the first Ace of the month title.

RGA holds two tournaments every month for one season with the monthly Ace winners competing for the coveted RGA Cup during the Placido M.



Joe Saures, left, seen here with Tom Tebuteb and Jordon Kosam, holds the score to beat in this Sunday's RGA January Ace Tournament at Coral Ocean Point.

Capital Bowling Center hosts January roll-offs

The Capital Bowling Center will be the venue for Saipan Bowling Association's first monthly roll-offs for the year.

First up at CBC is the Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes Tournament this Sunday with the winner of the youth event getting the Janu-

ary crown and a slot to SBA's finale roll-off in December.

The youth tournament is open to bowlers in the 12 to 18 age group and each participant must pay the \$10 entrance and \$10 membership fees.

The first day of the Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tournament is also scheduled this Sunday. The second round is set for Monday, but only the higher

score will be counted to determine the winners of the January King and Queen of the Lanes titles. Entrance fee in the adult roll-offs is \$15 and bowlers must also pay the \$15 membership fee to qualify for the monthly events.

Only the first 60 bowlers to register in the men's roll-off will be allowed to compete and cash prizes will be determined based on the number of

entries. In the women's division, separate cash prizes will be given only if more than 10 female keglers join the event.

Robert Talavera and Gloria Omechelang, who topped the 2010 King and Queen of the Lanes Tournament early this month, hoped to pick up where they left off by winning SBA's first monthly roll-offs.

For more information about SBA and its tournaments, contact Gigi or Ross Zapanta at 288-5627. (Roselyn B. Monroyo)



Man Amigos' J.J. Laniyo picks up a roller from the outfield in this file photo from the 2010 Chamolinian Softball Association's Inaugural Budweiser Slow-Pitch Softball League.



**Li beats
Wozniacki,
reaches Aussie
Open final**

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Sports

**NMC Foundation Open
scheduled for April 13**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

NMC Proa takes solo lead; Mobil wins



NMC Proa's Jack Lizama stretches for a layup against the Hoopaholics' Mel Manibusan during their game in the UBA/Docomo caging last Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

NMC Proa won the duel of unbeaten teams, while Mobil pulled off a come-from-behind victory, as action in the 2nd Docomo Pacific/UBA Men's League continued last Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In the first game, what was anticipated as a close match turned into the lopsided one, as NMC Proa thrashed the Hoopaholics, 84-54. In the nightcap, Mobil stole the game from the Rollers, 96-95.

The 30-point victory improved NMC Proa's record to 3-0 and gave the team the solo

lead in the nine-squad field. The Hoopaholics absorbed their first



loss in three games after having a bad shooting night.

The Hoopaholics missed a lot of shots, from easy layups to long jumpers. They had only one triple in the game, courtesy of Jawn Joyner's first basket in the opening quarter. Gunner John Sablan missed several long shots and to make matters worse for the Hoopaholics, they

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NNASA to work on Mini Games bid

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

 Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association will do the paper work for the CNMI's bid for the 2017 Pacific Mini Games.

NNASA president Michael White said he will prepare a draft of the bid and will submit it to the bid committee for review and approval.

The committee is composed of government, business, and local sports officials ap-

pointed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial. The list includes Senate President Paul A. Manglona, House Speaker Eliceo D. Cabrera, Connie Agulto of the Department of Finance, Special Assistant for Administration Esther Fleming, Commissioner of Education Dr.

See NASA on Page 34



White

Ayuyus extend winning run in varsity

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Kagman High School kept its bid for a perfect season alive after pounding Saipan Southern High School, 93-78, during their varsity game in the 2010-2011 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The win was the fifth in as many games for the defending champions, who have three games left in the double-round robin regular season. The Ayuyus have two matches against Grace Christian Academy (Jan. 31 and Feb. 7) and one versus MHS Dolphins (Feb. 4).

The loss was third in five matches for Southern, which dropped to third place in the team standings behind Kag-



Kagman High School's Ichitaro Faisao goes up for a fastbreak layup during their varsity game against Saipan Southern High School in the MISO caging last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

RELATED NEWS

Lady Geckos, Lady Ayuyus win in MISO v-ball

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man and MHS (4-1). It was also the Rays' second defeat at the hands of the defending champions after Kagman won their first meeting, 78-54.

Kagman's first five wins this season were all in dominating fashion with the Ayuyus posting a winning margin average of 23.4 points. The defending champion defeated Mt. Carmel twice, 79-56 and 85-47, routed MHS, 93-76, and then clobbered Southern by 15 markers—Kagman's lowest winning margin so far.

The Ayuyus still easily won their second outing against Southern despite losing slotman Savali Talalemoto early in the third period. Talalemoto fouled out at the 8:48 mark of the third quarter after drawing two consecutive fouls. He was called for three in the first half and was whistled for his fourth after pushing off against Jimmy Tudela, as they jockeyed for position in the shaded lane. Talalemoto argued the call and was

See AYUYUS on Page 34

MHS 2, Southern draw; KHS prevails in MISO girls soccer

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

 Marianas High School 2 overcame an early two-goal deficit and finished with a draw against Saipan Southern High School as the 2010-2011 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Varsity Soccer League continued



Wednesday at the Lady Manta Rays' home turf. The MHS 2 Lady Dolphins now have a 1-0-3 win-loss-draw record, while Southern remained winless with a draw and three losses.

The Lady Manta Rays started off very well and took MHS 2 by surprise in the first 20 minutes of action.

Southern's Jove Maalihah-Taman drew first blood in the

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WALTER SUTHERLAND
Marianas High School 2 forward Rima Halaby, left, tries to penetrate a pesky Saipan Southern High School defense in their MISO girls varsity soccer game last Wednesday at the Lady Manta Rays' soccer field.